

ARUB

THE DECORATED HOUSE
IN ARUBA

718.7
trom

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL ARUBA



3 0993 00182 527 2

ARUBIANA/CARIBIANA

Pa referencia.
NO POR FIA.

For reference.
NOT TO BE TAKEN
FROM THIS ROOM.



Oxford

STOCK No. 752½

MADE IN U. S. A.



718.7

ARUB

Cari:l

TROMP, ITO

The decorated house in Aruba / Ito Tromp. - Aruba :
Dept. of Culture and Education Aruba, [1976]. -
7 p. ; ill. ; 30 cm

Bouwstylen; Aruba (TW)

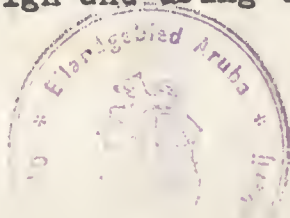
f 10,--

THE DECORATED HOUSE IN ARUBA =====

There might be two to threehundred houses in Aruba, which have the nice decoration of curtain, star, flower, bird's peak, half moon, etc., at the corner-edge or at the upper part of the house. These houses we do find all around, in almost all districts of Aruba. Always people thought that these designs came from early Indian-culture; maybe, the star-design might have a similarity in looking, as the God Sun of the Indians. However, the history of this decoration-system does not go too far in the past.

In his book "Millefiori di Aruba", Father Nooyen states, that the first house which got this type of decoration was the house of Mr. Bernardo Eman Croes at Pos Chikito. Two masons of Noord, Julian (Janchi) Christiaans and Gregorio (Goy) Semeleer, built this house in 1920, and made the decorations at the upper part and at the corners of the house. Other people at Pos Chikito, who saw this beautiful work, also wanted their homes to be decorated in the same way. Leoncio (Joonchi) Henricus, a mason of Pos Chikito, learned this job from Janchi Christiaans, and together with his son Bonifacio (Bonny) Henricus, he went on with the decoration of houses at Pos Chikito and Sabana Basora.

Janchi Christiaans, Goy Semeleer and other masons of Noord, like Hilario Christiaans, Victor Tromp, Gerardo Jacobs and Cornelis Rosa, gave houses at Noord and Paradera the same decoration. In 1927, Janchi Christiaans built a house for Julian Tromp at Buguruy. This was the first house at Noord to get a type of curtain-decoration. Later, masons of Paradera, Santa Cruz and Sabaneta, copied the decoration of houses. They practiced this system up to around 1944. They still have the molds safeguarded and well kept, but do not use them anymore. Janchi Christiaans started to cut the molds of zinc plates and carton. Janchi Christiaans had his own creation and system, while Leoncio and Bonifacio Henricus, produced their own fantasy. And this is what made these decorations popular, because lots of persons could convert their imagination into expressive art. However, the decoration of houses is not an original idea of Janchi Christiaans. Janchi was a disciple of his father Hose Christiaans, and of the Donati family, from Italian ancestors. Donati-masons also made these decorations, but without using any kind of mold, thus just making the design and using common plaster as material.



CARI:1

NA.X3.D23.3

- JUL 1986

Using Dr. Johan Hartog's "Aruba, breve historia" as reading material, I noticed that he also writes that these designs were not Indian hex-signs, but only decoration fantasy. One point, may be, which can be a disagreement, is the fact that he writes that in 1820 some masons from Curacao started with this type of decoration in Aruba. This means then, that contradictory to Father Nooyen, who states that this began in 1920, they started one hundred years before. As part of my research I interviewed also Mr. Julio Maduro, head of the Department of Labor, who told me that around 1880 Johannes (Janchi) Wolff, started with the decoration of houses. And as Janchi himself said, he learned this trade from his grandfather, who in former times built the first lighthouse at California Point. After comparing his information, I have to admit then, that Hartog is right in so far, concerning the starting period of the decorated house in Aruba in 1820. But not that the masons came from Curacao. Victor Tromp, now about 87 years old, was a family-member of Janchi Wolff.

Julio Maduro says that in 1920 the masons started again with this type of decoration. All together, there is no specific year (up to now) in which the Aruban started this decorative art-expression. It is interesting to know, that these decorations were a kind of symbol for several generations. An example: decorations that appear on a house of an Arends family, may also be seen on a house of a Bermudez and Croes family. This is because always parents gave a specific design to their son or daughter, when they were going to get married. People also spoke formerly about superstition. That these designs had a certain type of voodoo, to keep away the ghosts of the Indians, who were buried in the vicinity where the house now stands. But this vanished almost completely.

About the continuing of the designs from family to family, this is a cultural heredity not anymore established. Hence, that formerly, every young man, getting married, had to have his own house, otherwise no marriage.

The designs were made in relief, according to the fantasy of the mason. He sees for example 6 birds on a tree, and he draws 6 birds on a tree:

OPENBARE LEESZAAL EN BOEKHUIS

1

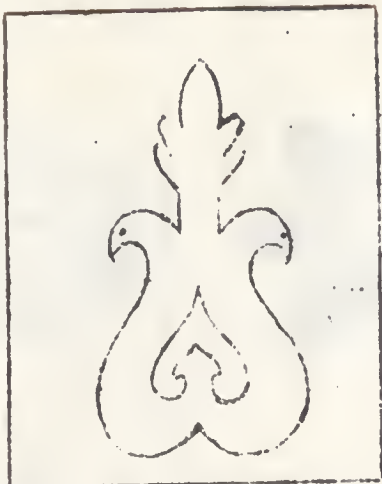
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If he wants to express his love towards his twins, then he designs a twin:

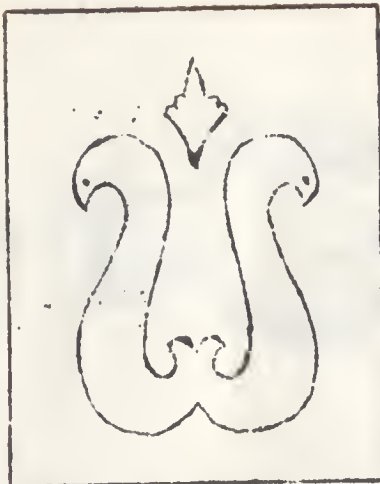
The curtains were made, just to cover the front, and served at the same time as decoration. You also find different types of curtains, depending on the ability of the mason to draw, and also on the style of these masons. The one could draw better than the other, and this brought the different types (the variety of types) of curtains on the houses.

Nowadays, if you want to use these types of designs on your house, no worry, just get them copied and painted.

Ito Tromp
Department of Culture
and Education Aruba.



pair of birds, with
flowers on their heads



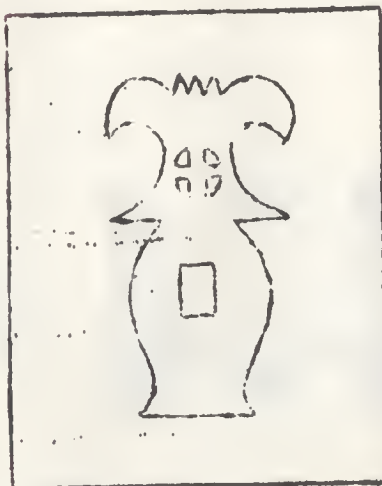
a pair of ducks, with
backs together



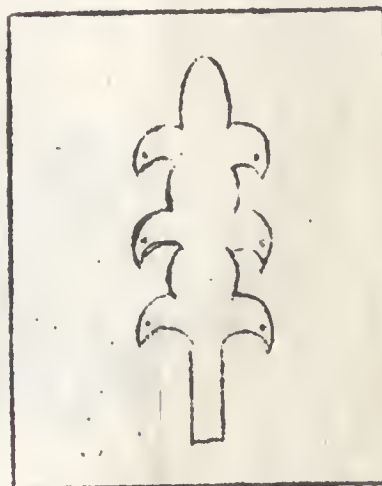
one star, with 4
birds



jug with double handle



bird's cage



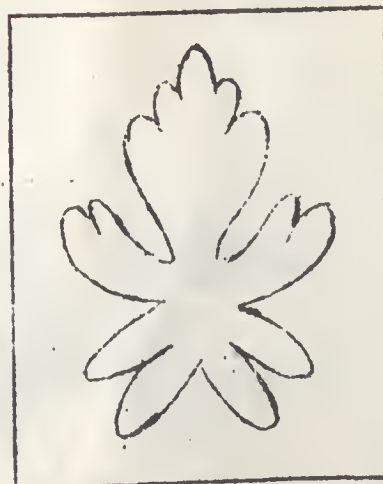
six birds on a tree



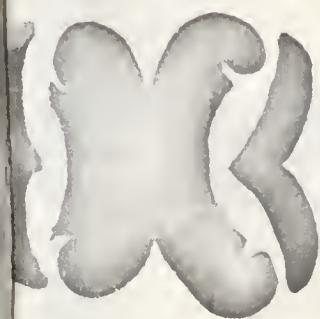
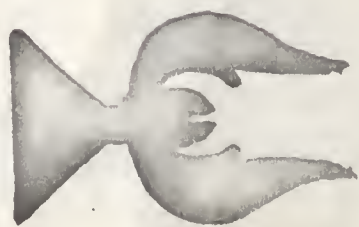
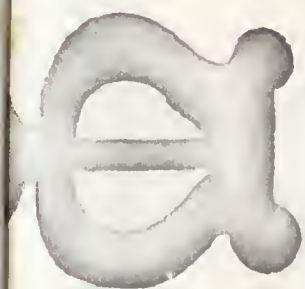
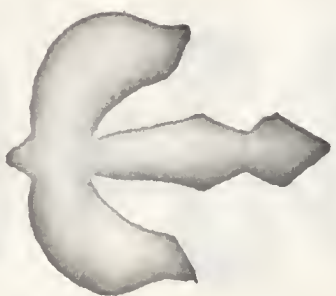
bouquet of flowers

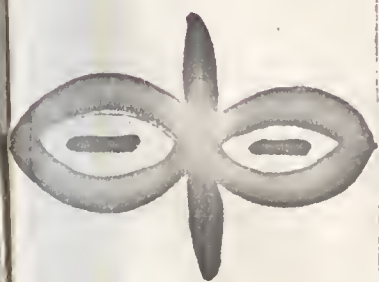
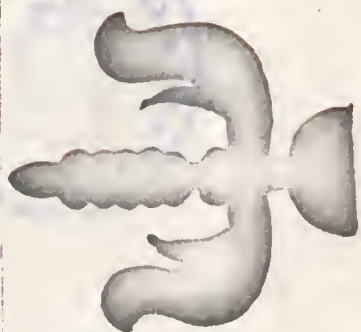


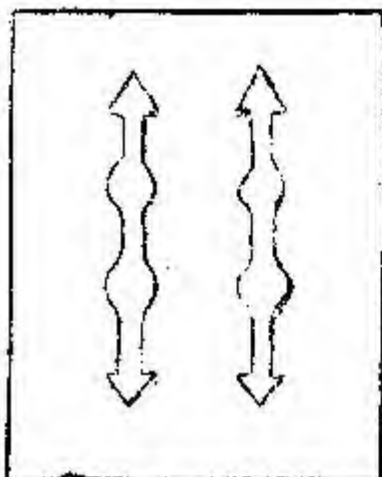
four-armed octopus
(half sized octopus)



leaf of a certain
type of plant



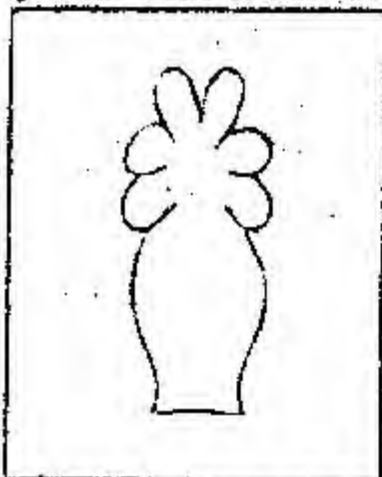




Representation of twins
in a family



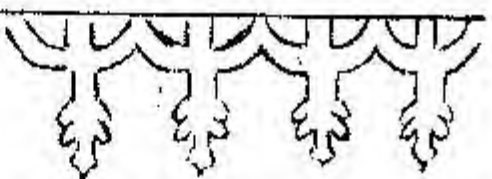
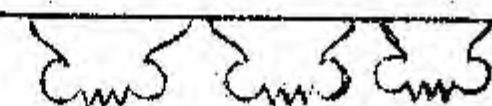
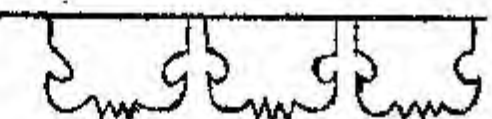
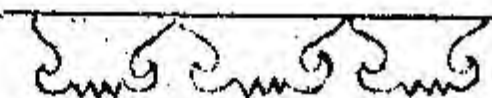
6 birds on a tree, to-
gether with their mother

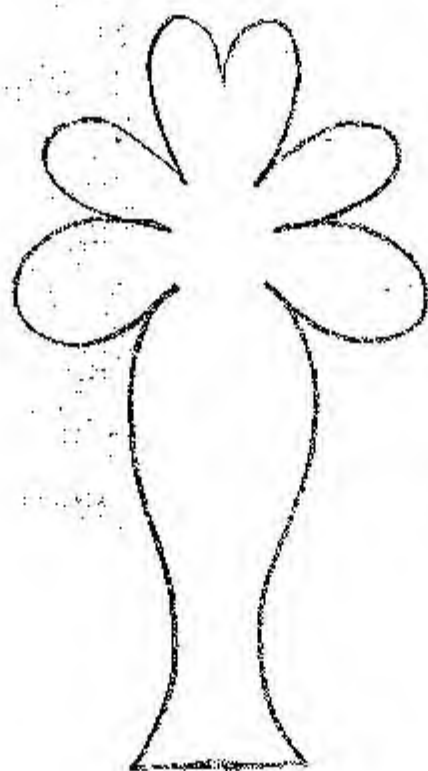


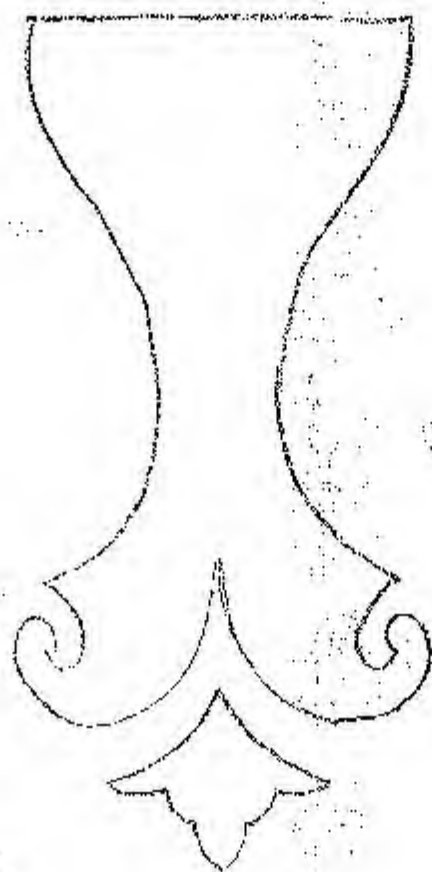
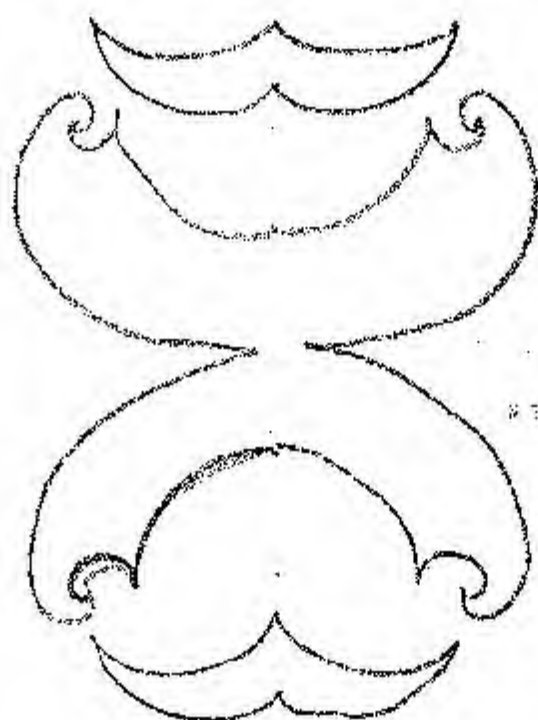
bouquet of flowers in
a vase

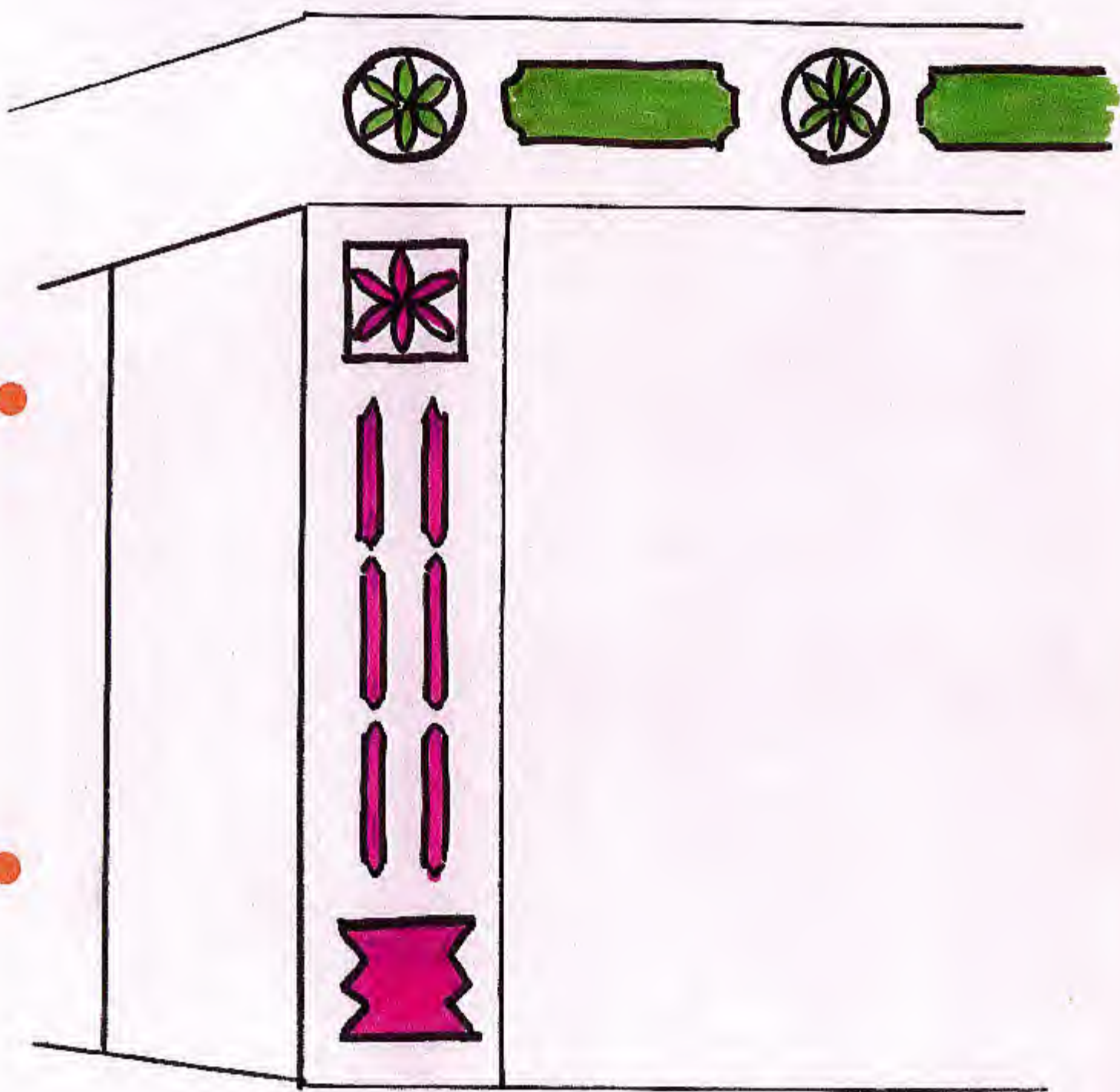


chandelier



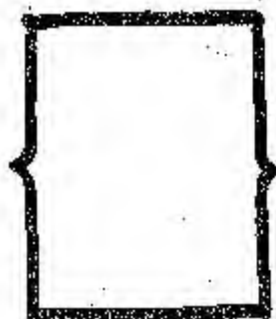
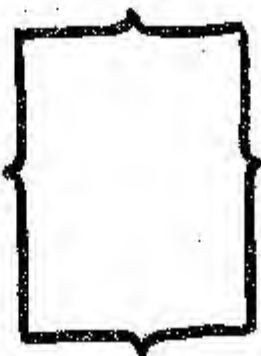
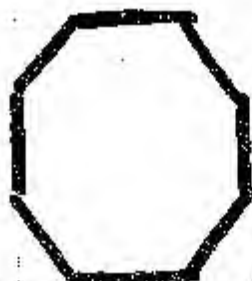
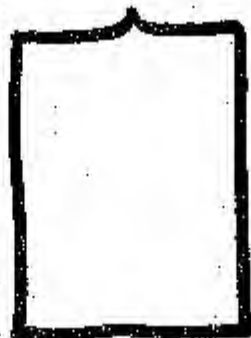
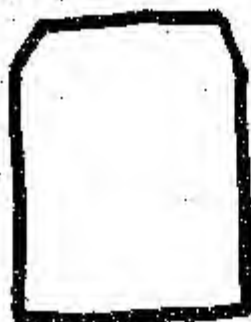
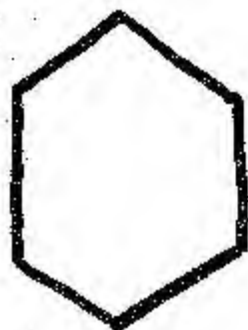
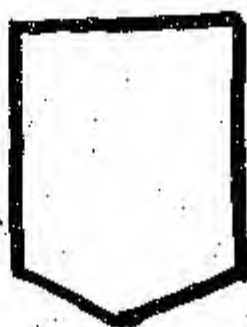
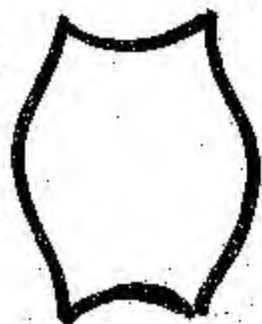




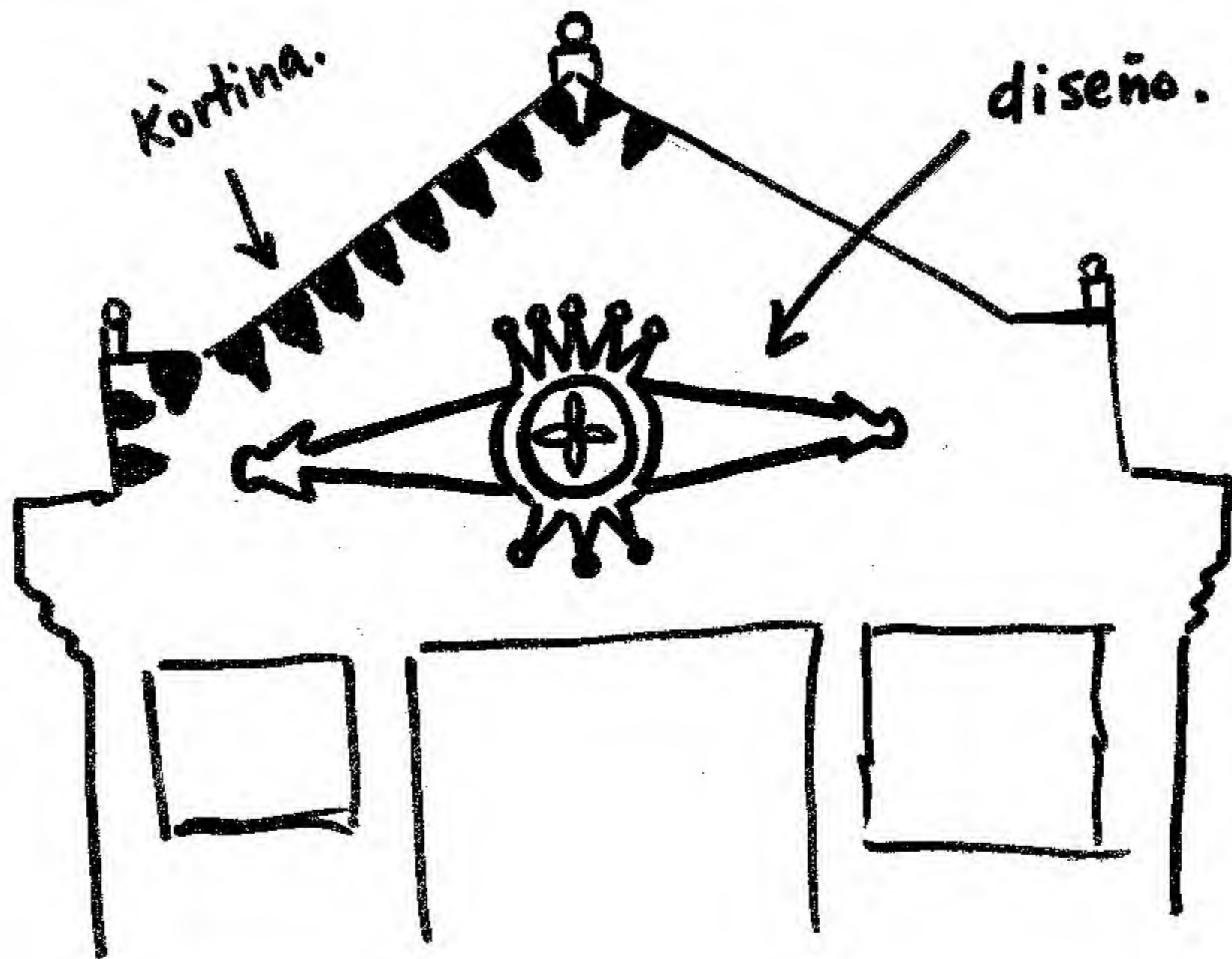


front!!

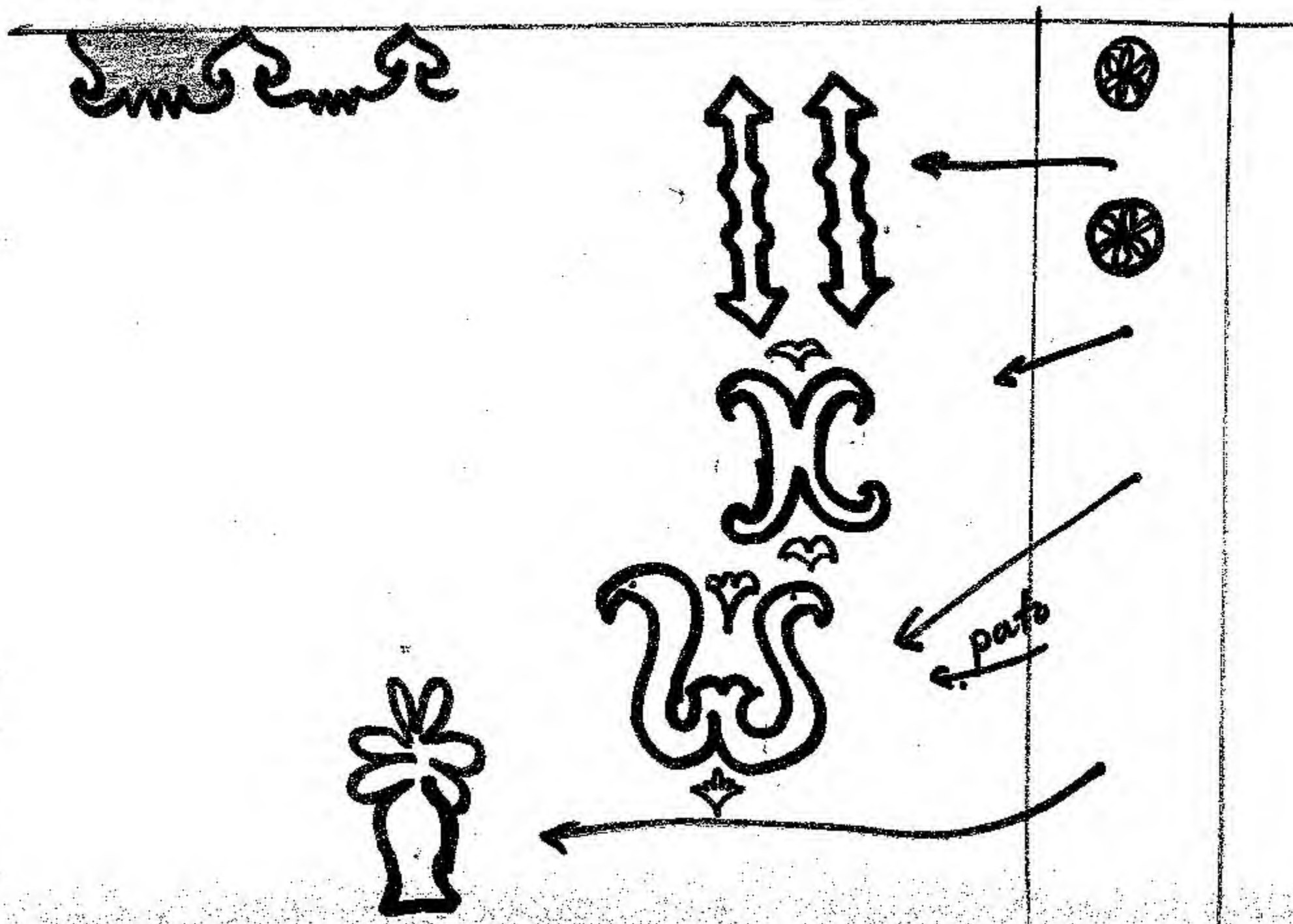
Kuadronan (frames)

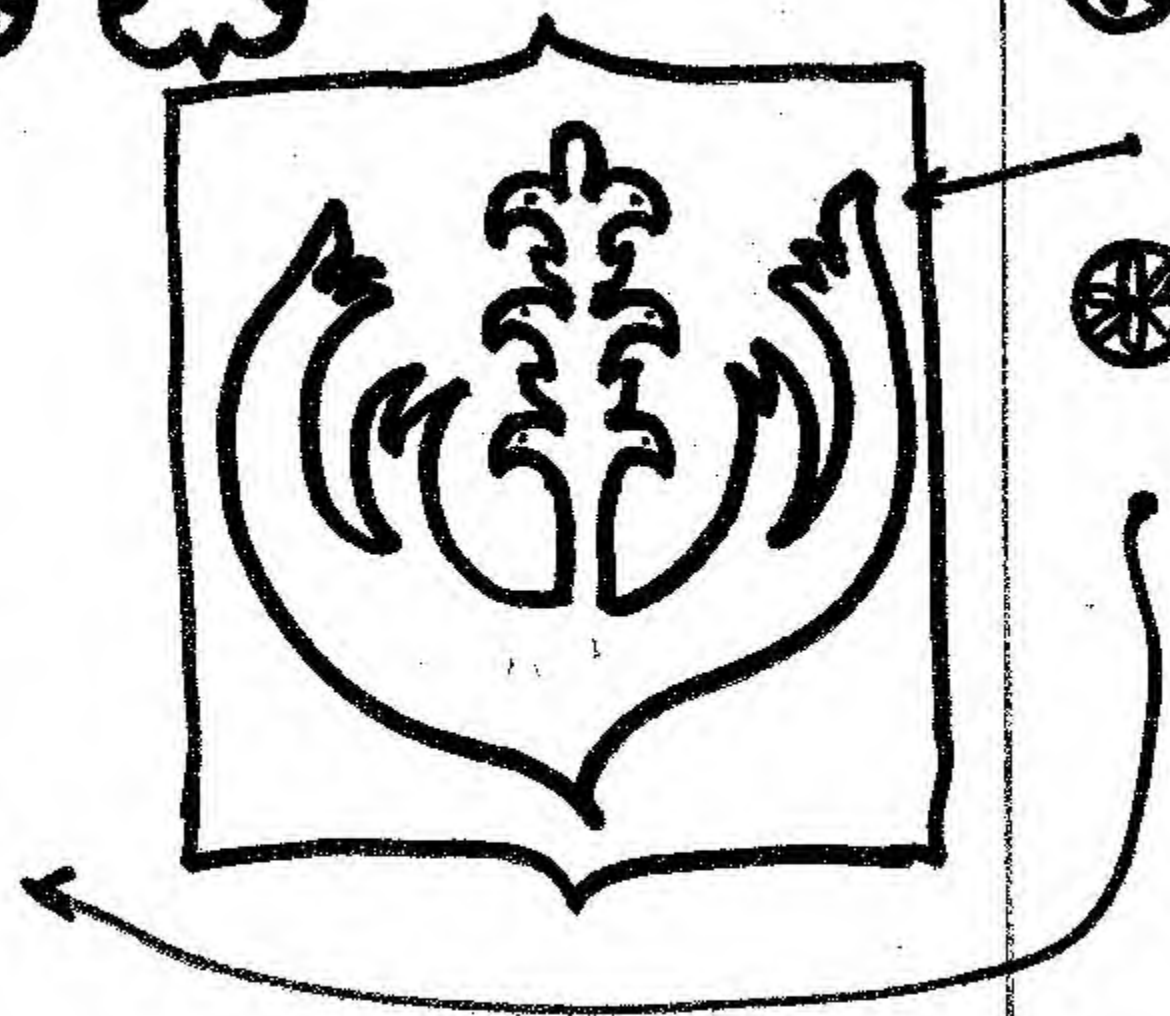
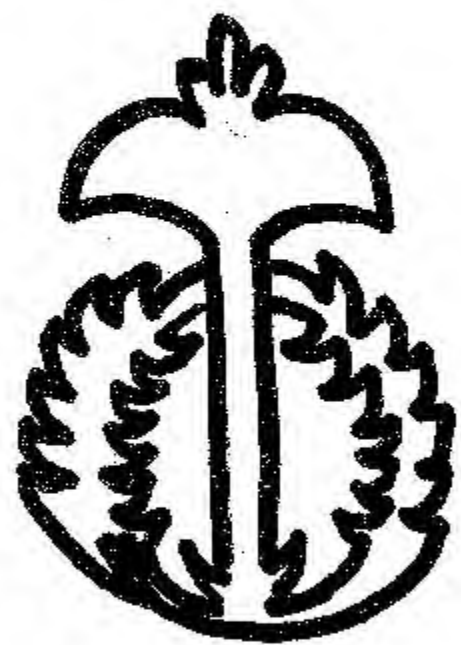


Sta Cruz 8f

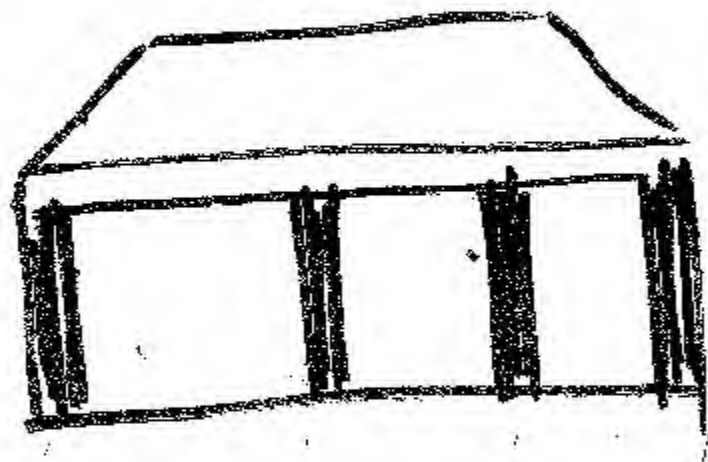


Pap. 91.





SB 11



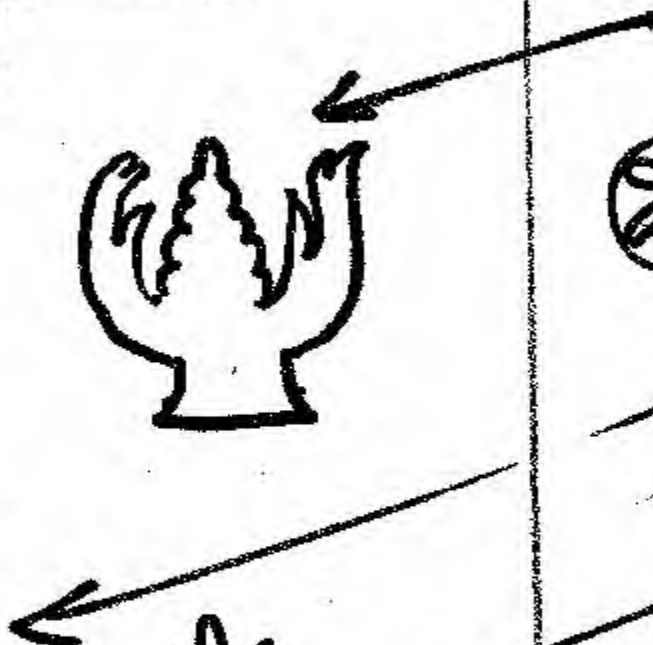
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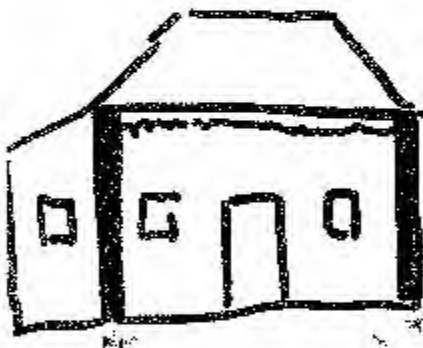
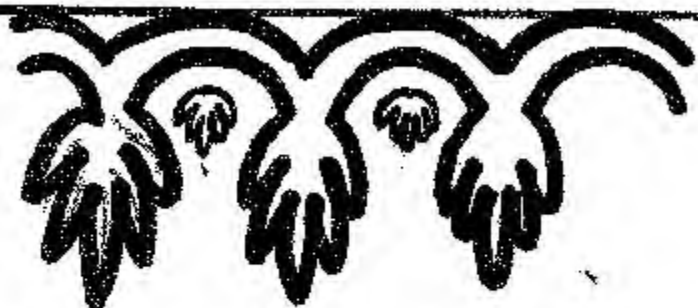
Ch 51

Portul

Henriens



SB. 7



kande-
lario



bouket



Sta Cruz 70 + Sta Cruz 68.

Detalle



obra di
J. Christensen.



döbel.



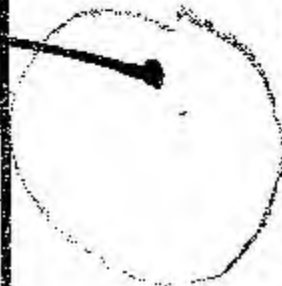
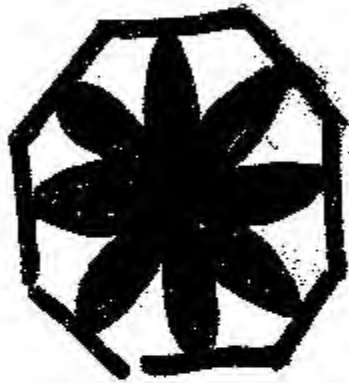
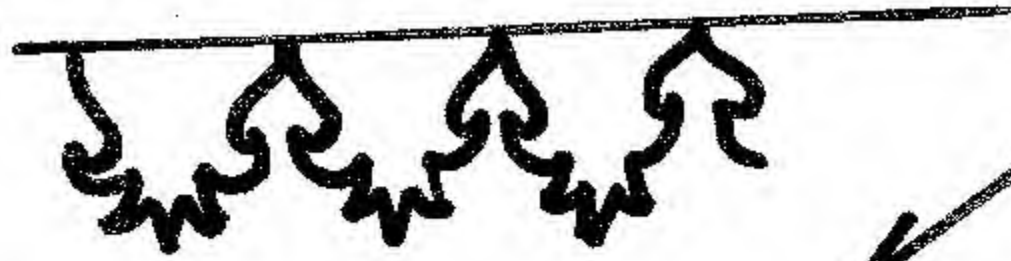
sin
ronchi



sin
kuadro



P.P. 50.



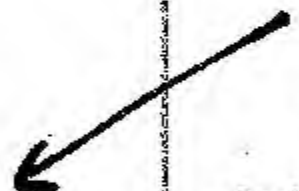
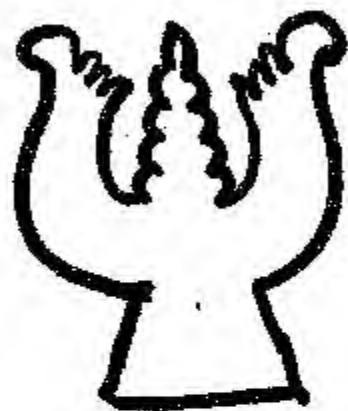


kanika.



sekat di 4 brasa.





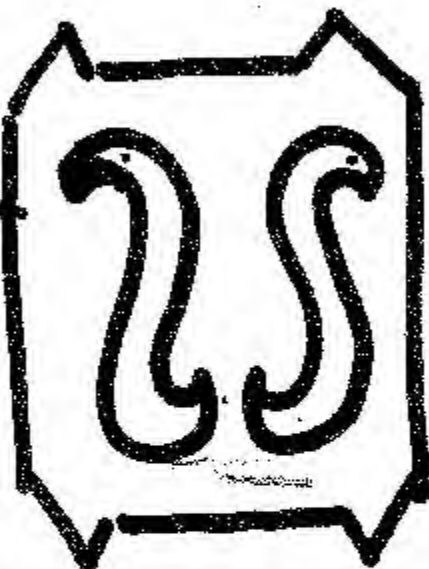
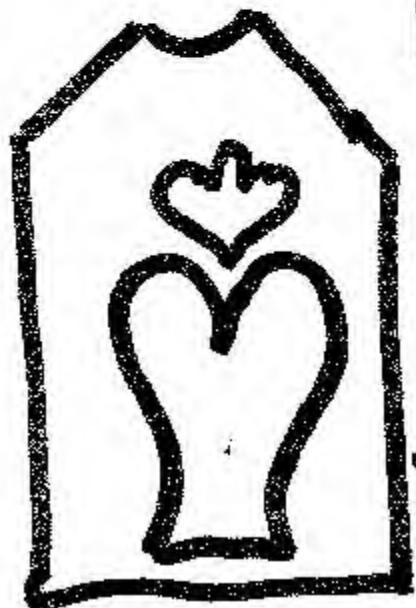
no rōnchi



Cashero 3.

no kòrtina.

pato, rabo
ou otro,
dos lówa



strea di
8 punta.



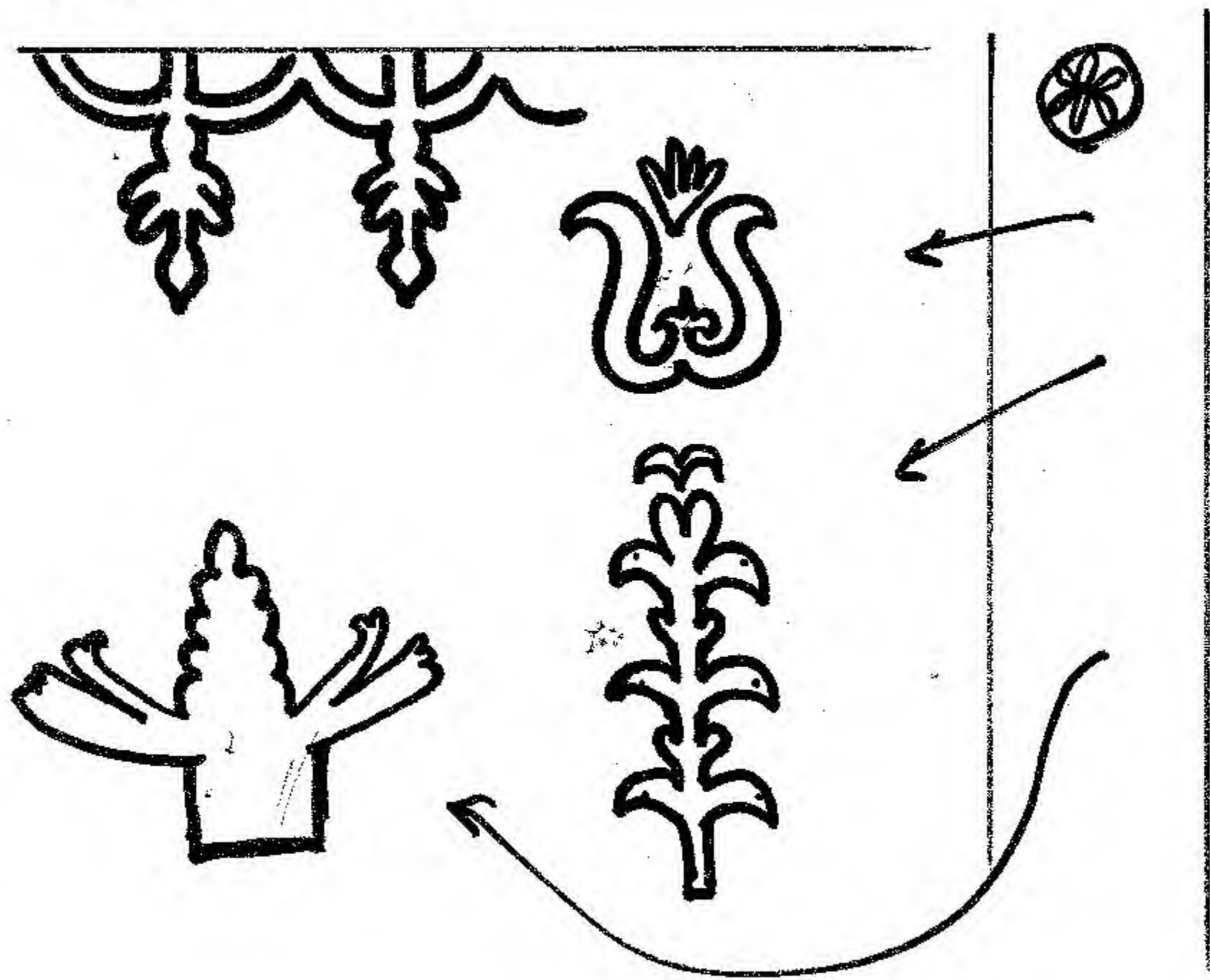
'trahá' na
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e tin

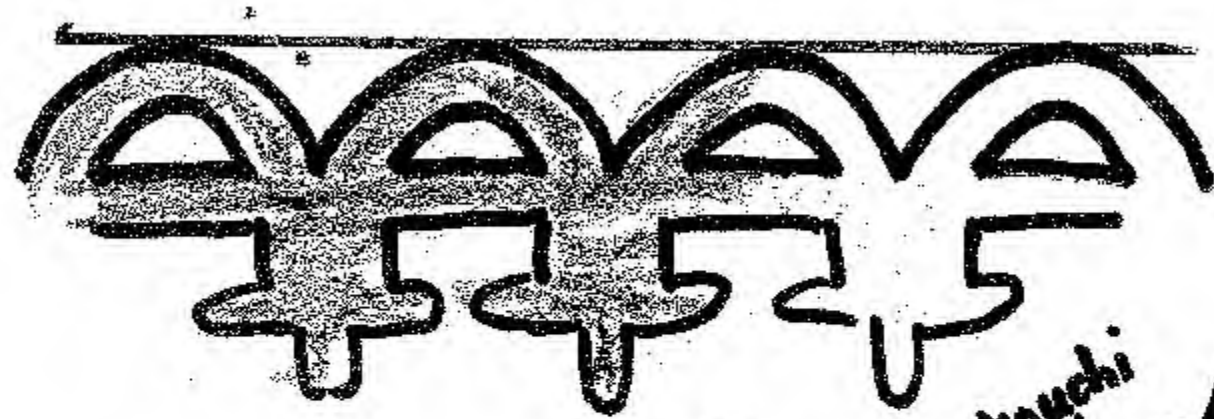


pòpchi.

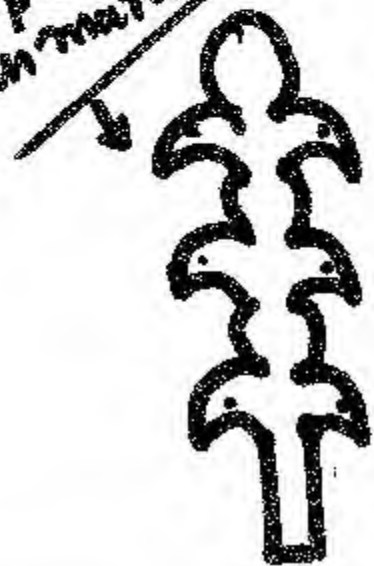
Mac. 82.



Sp. Lagoenweg 32



parha riba
an mata



par di parha
ky flor
kabe



kouchi
di
parha
calle
trida

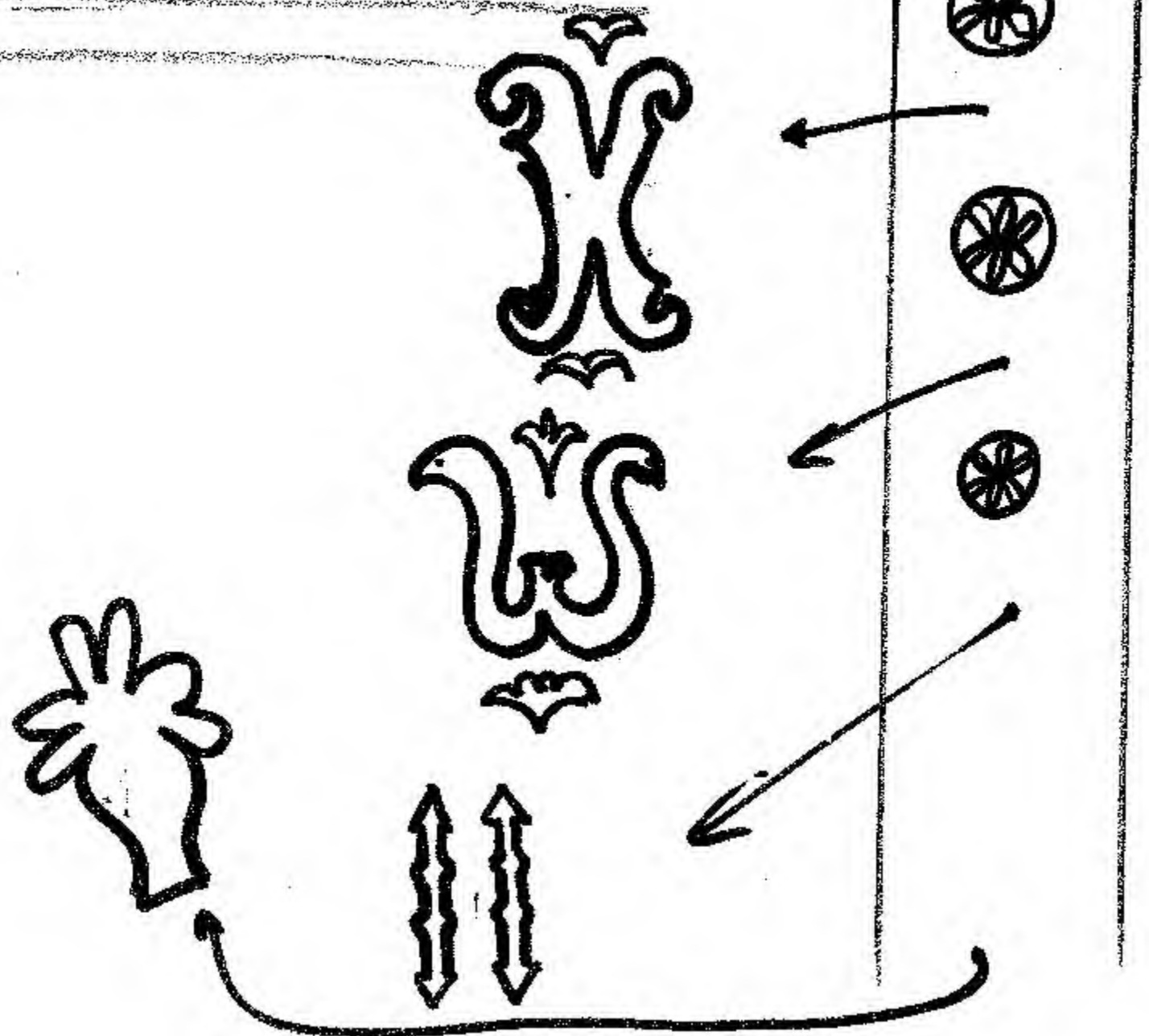


Boni
Henriquez
kas +
obra.

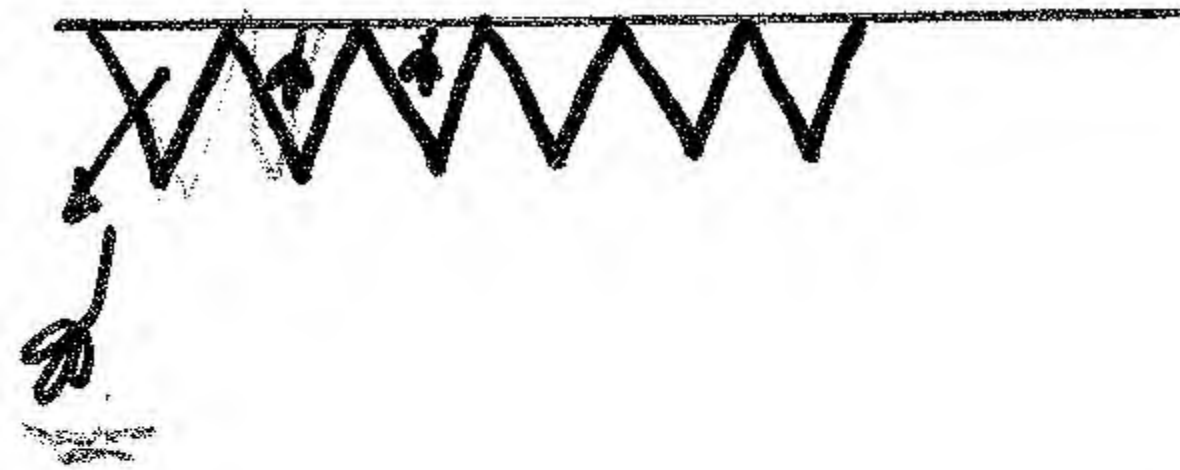
s strea.

Mae 58.

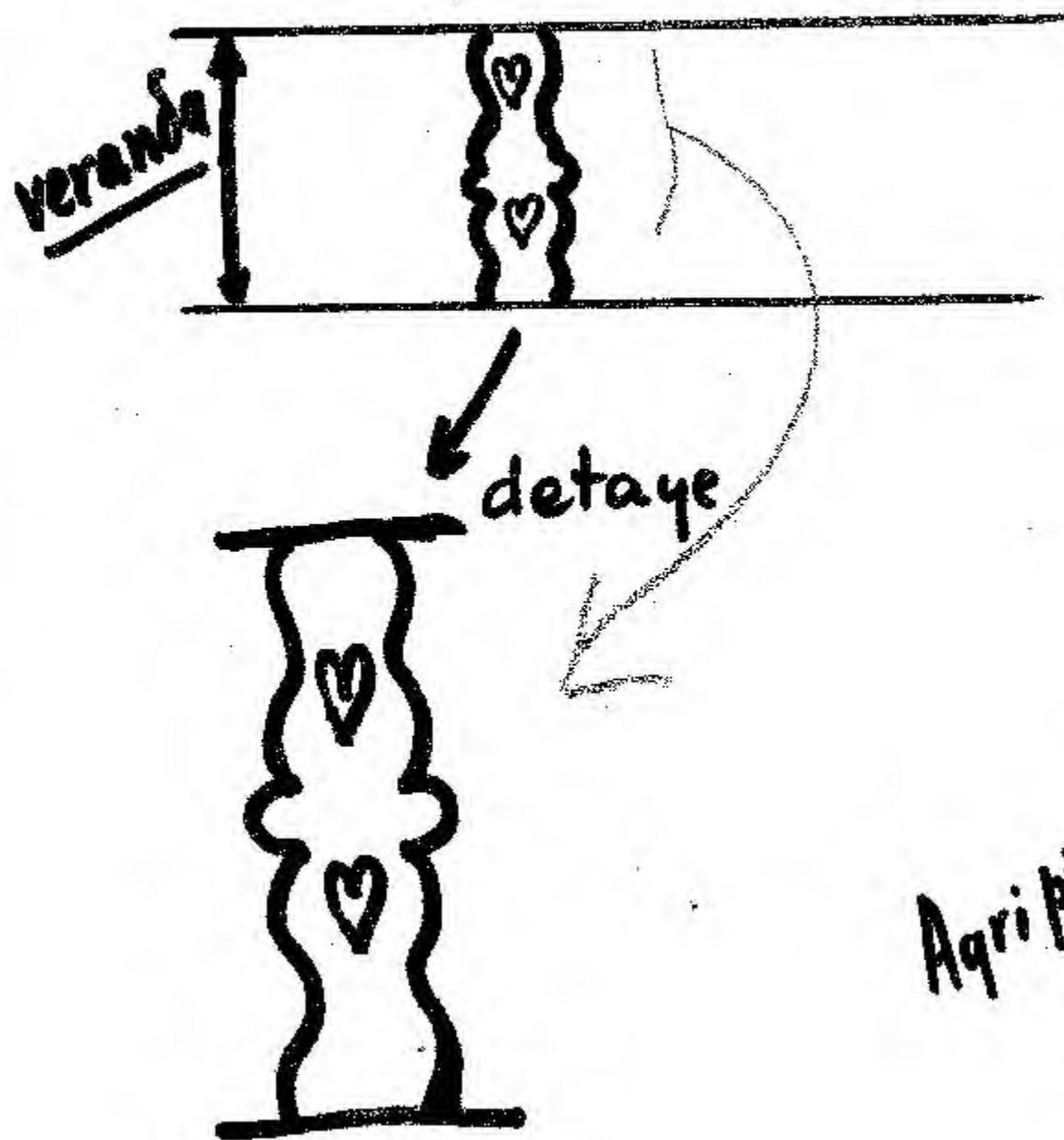
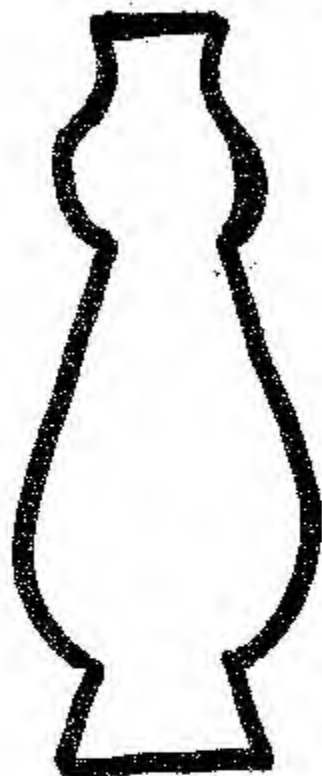
No tin kòrtina ariba.



Siribana 20

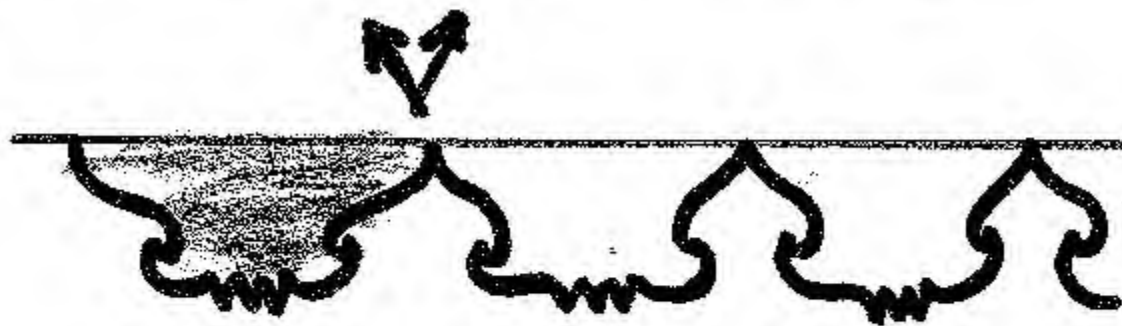


Cashero 14.



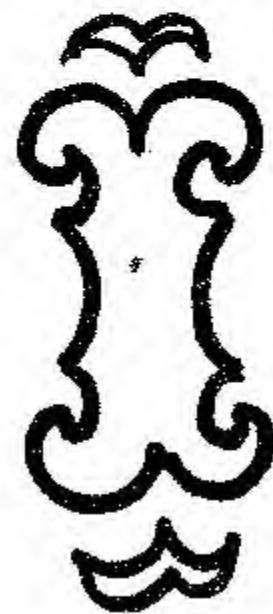
Agripino Maduro
SRA.

Sta Cruz 170. + Sta Cruz 180.



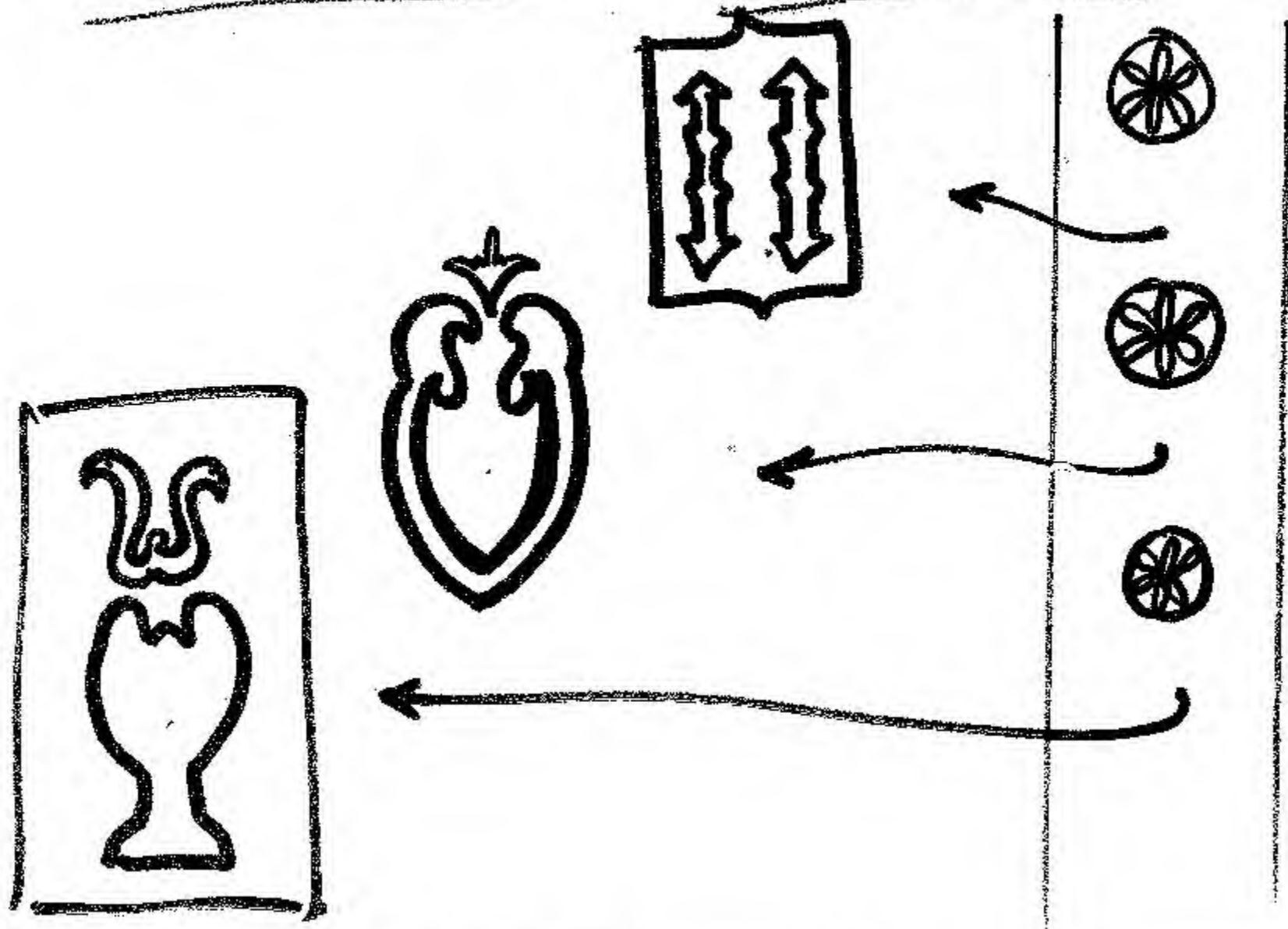
nada mas di flor, körtina so.

1 diseño STC
170
↙



Mac. 89.

flornan na banda. — no kórtina ariba.

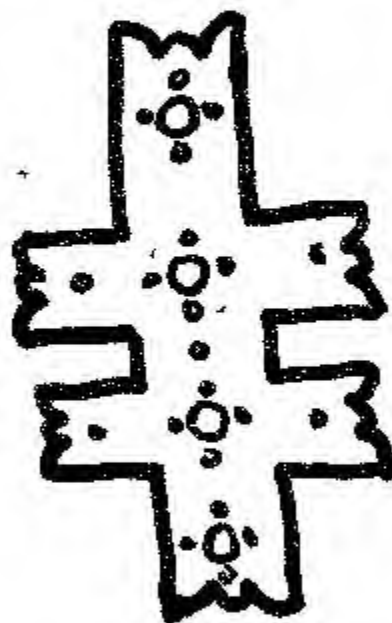


Sta Cruz 176.

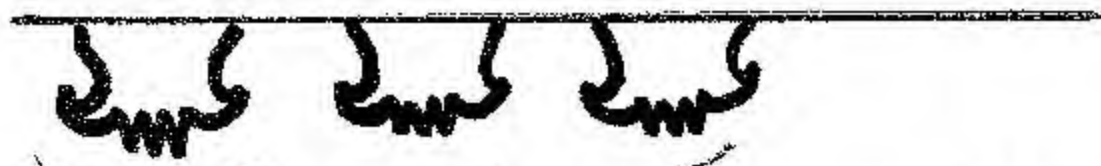
Yeerman

inuk

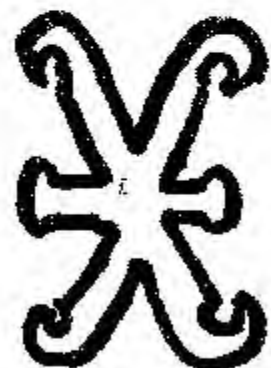
inkluyendo
e "sleiro".



kanika ku 2 parha
riba dje.

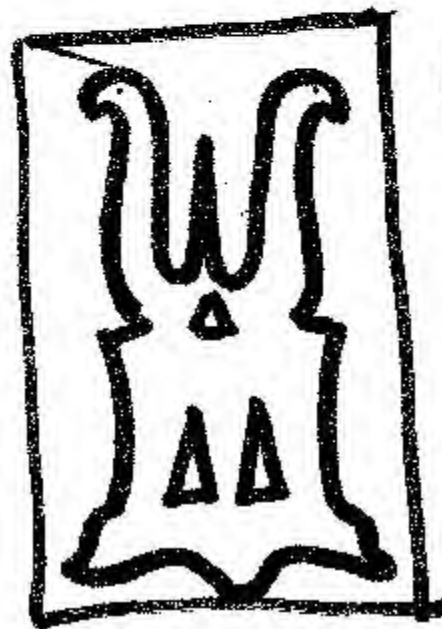


na distansia.

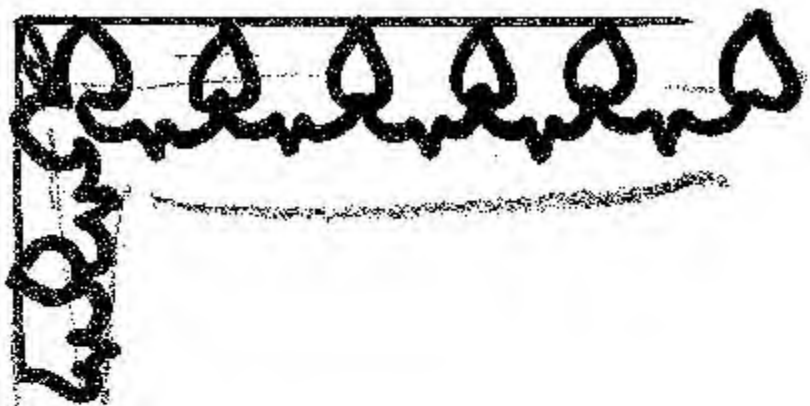


strea ku 4 parha.



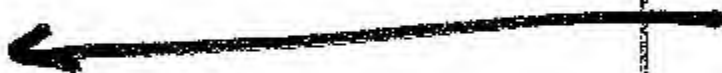


KA ISA.



~~Hand-drawn symbol~~

Anker.

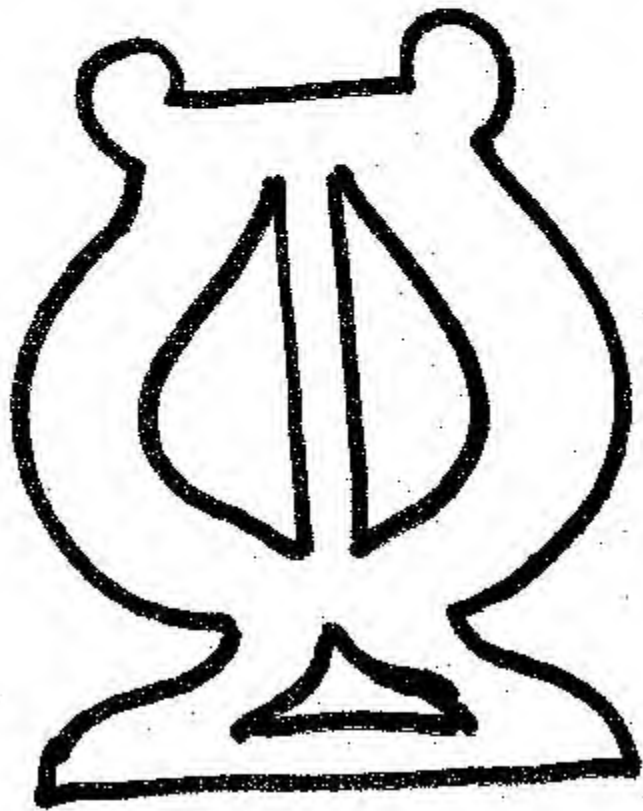


kèlki

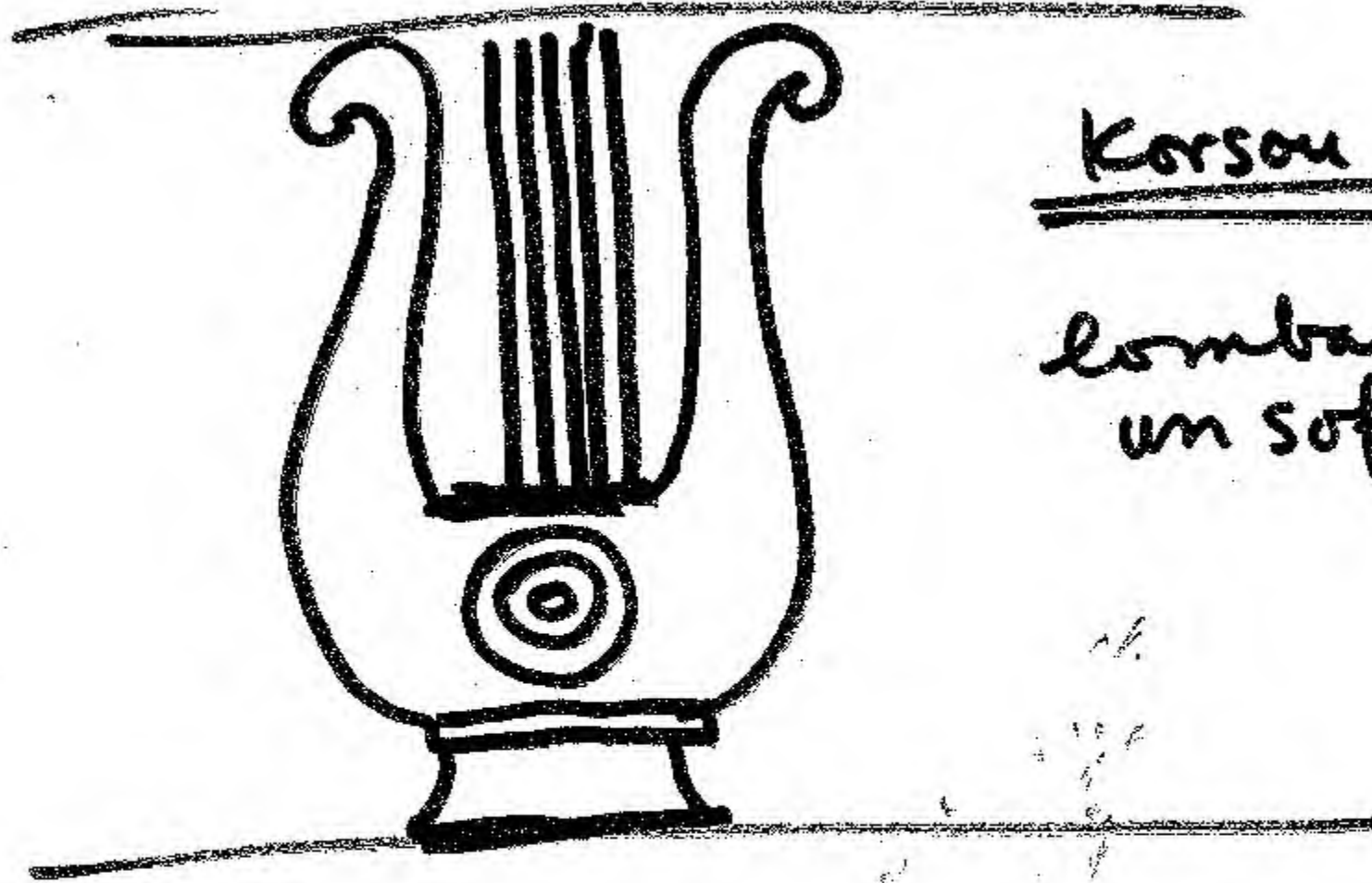


Sta Cruz 236.

Stul ku di seño!

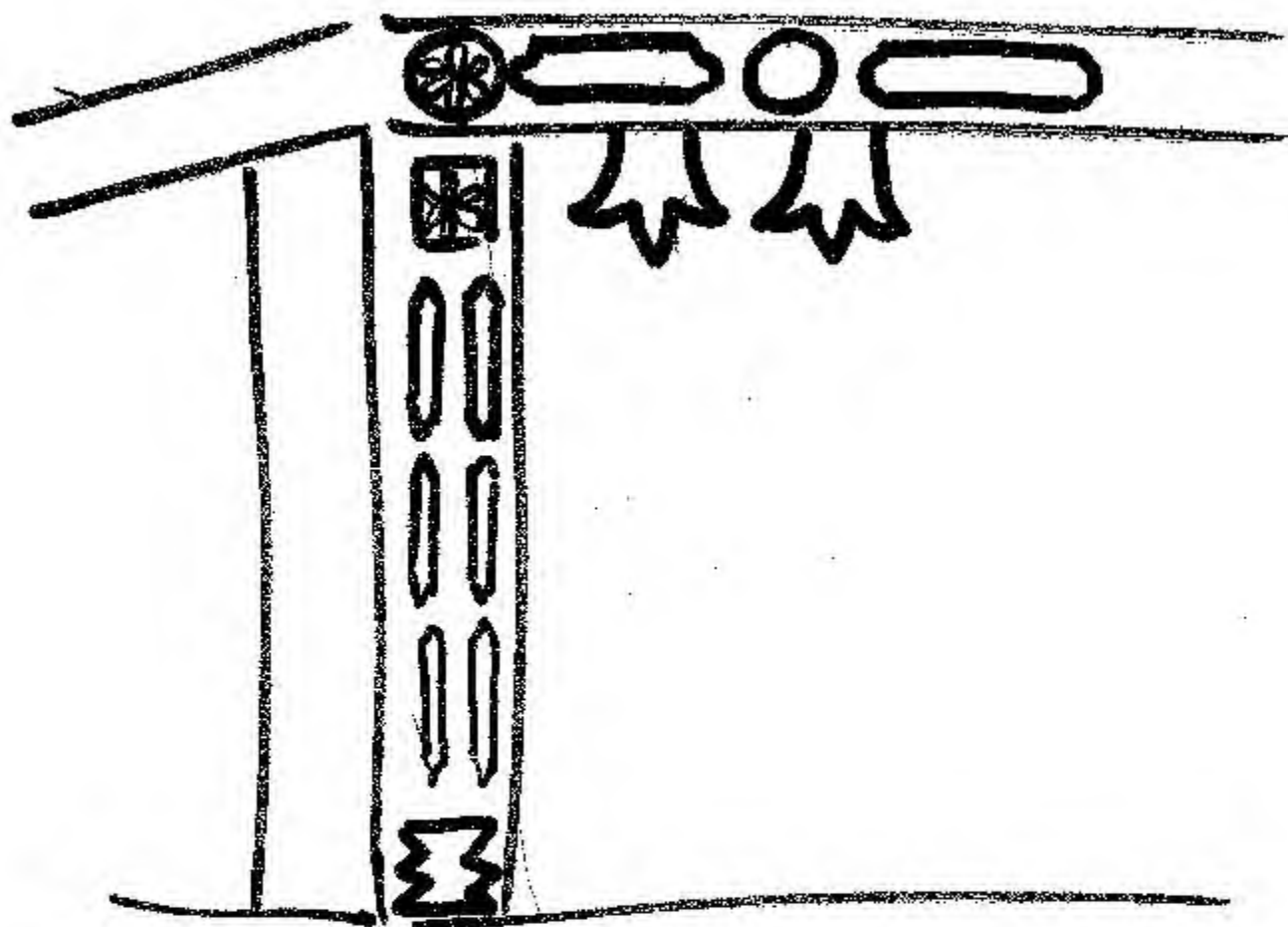


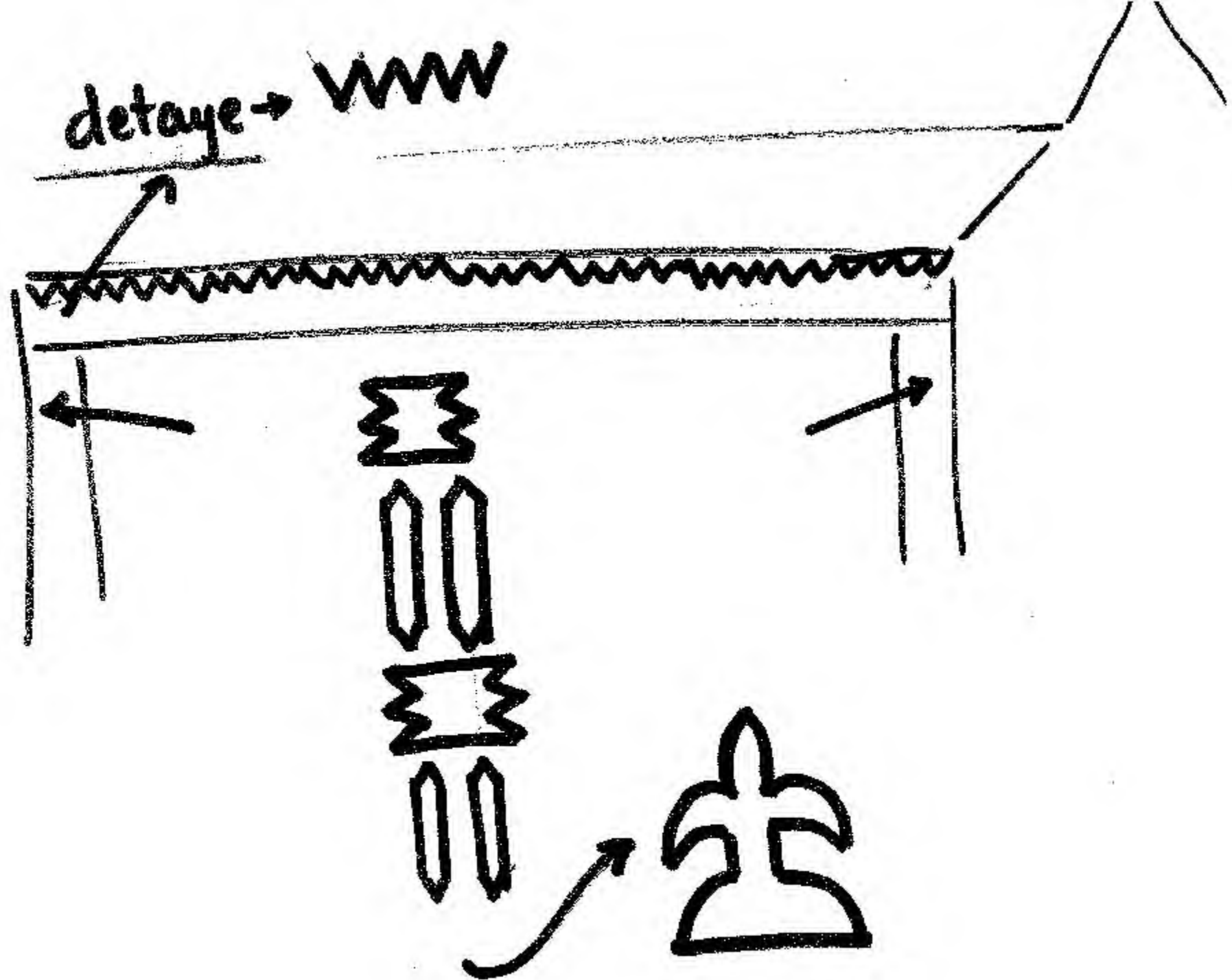
N.
H.
A.



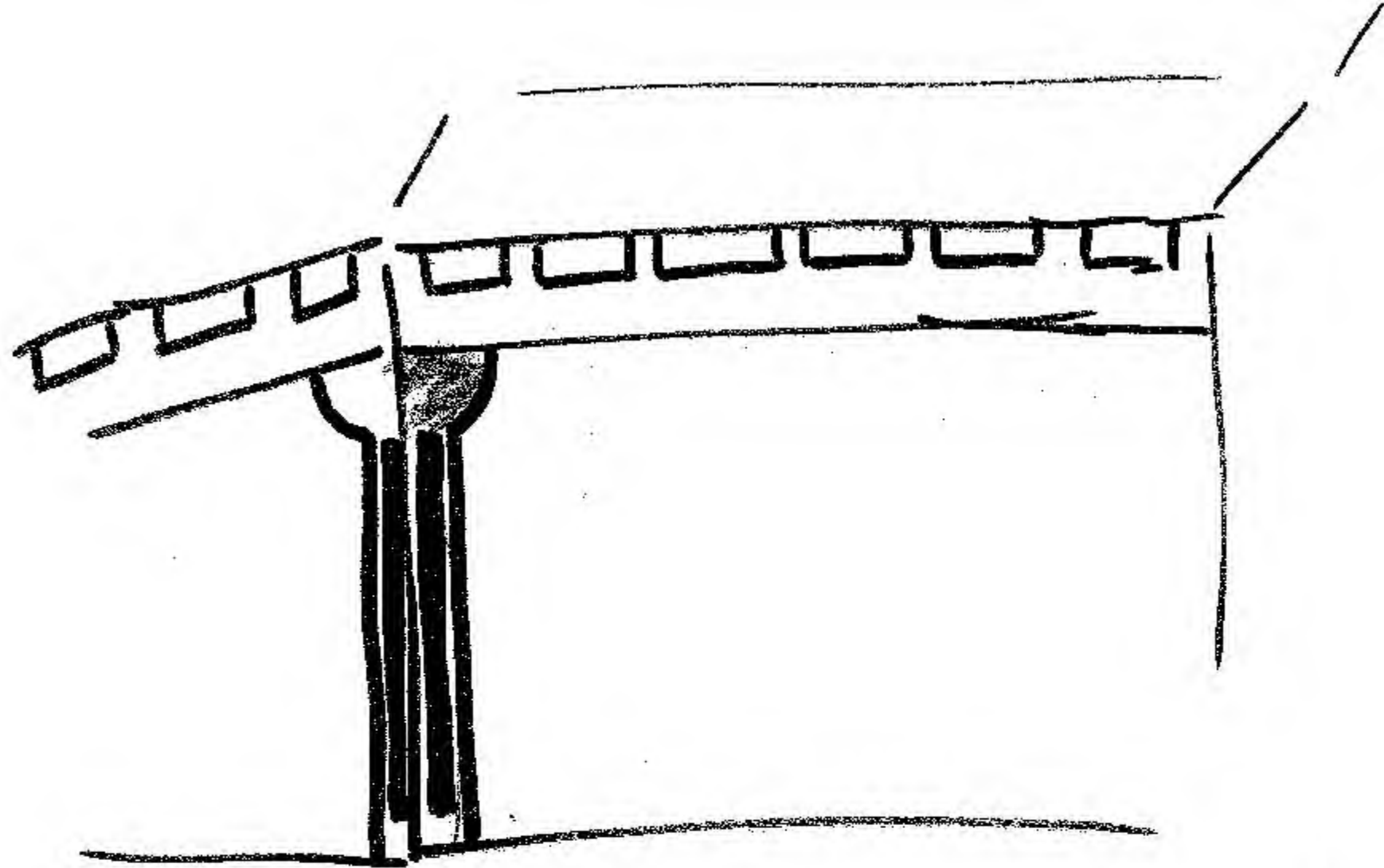
Korsou

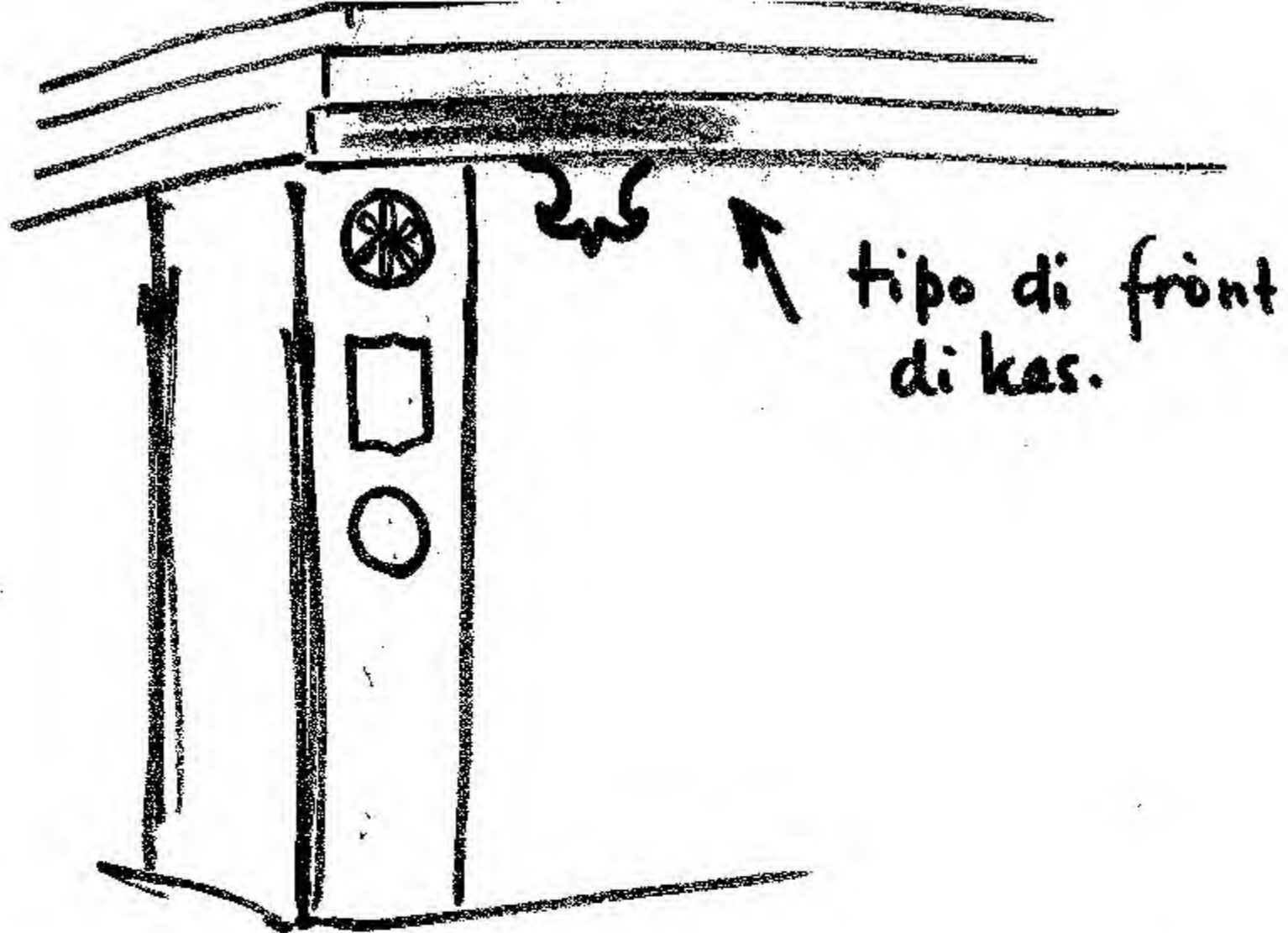
lomba di
un sofa

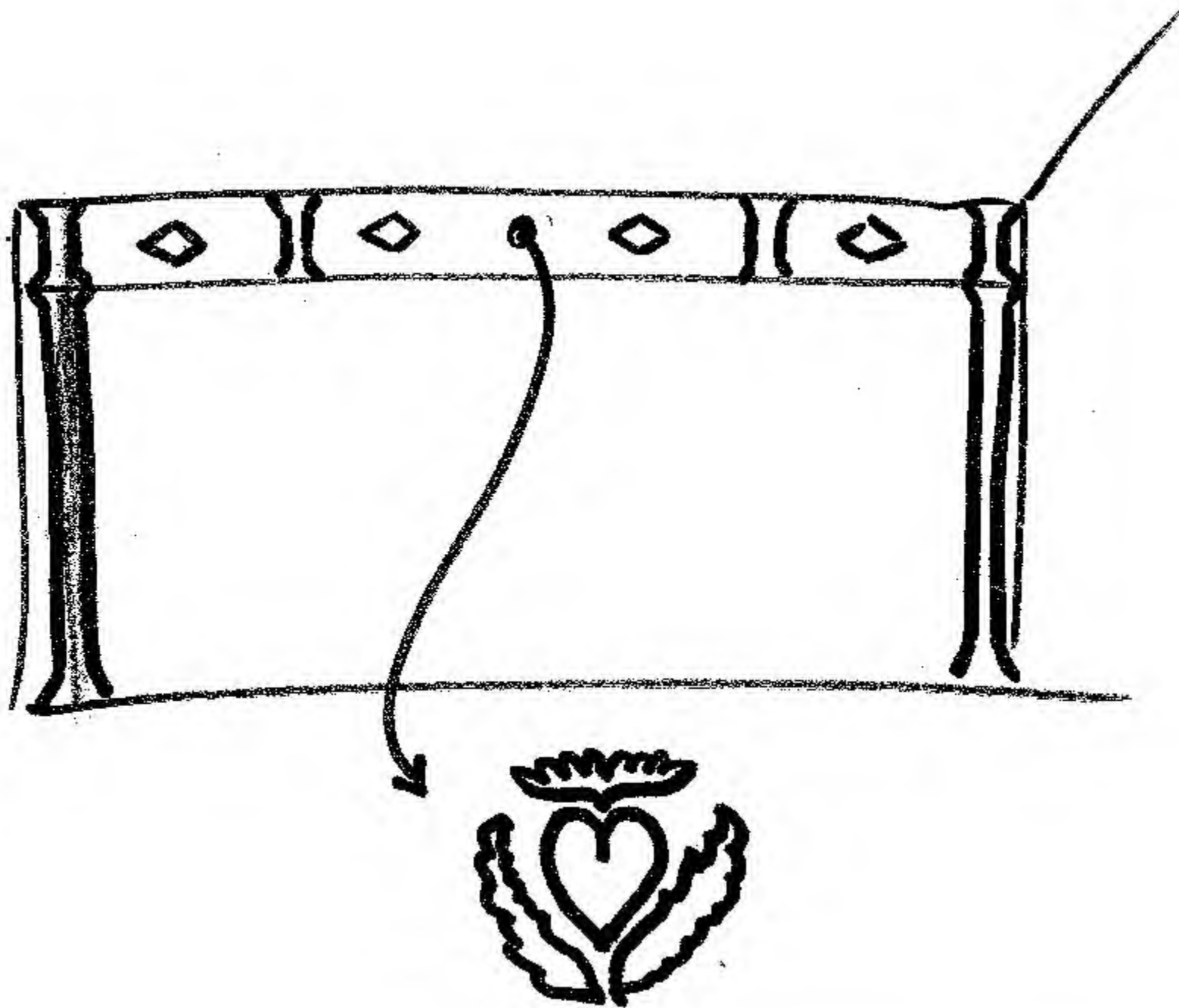


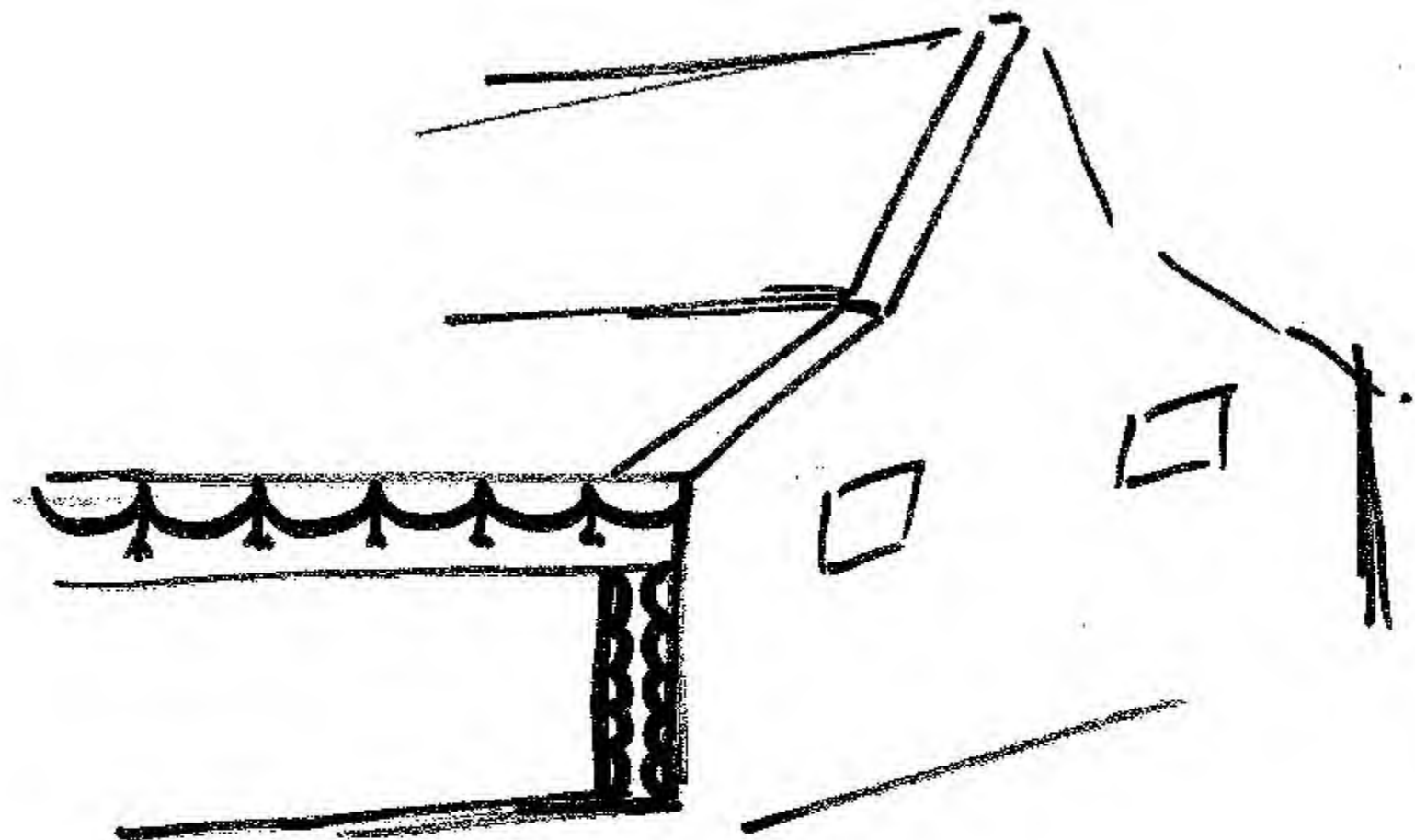


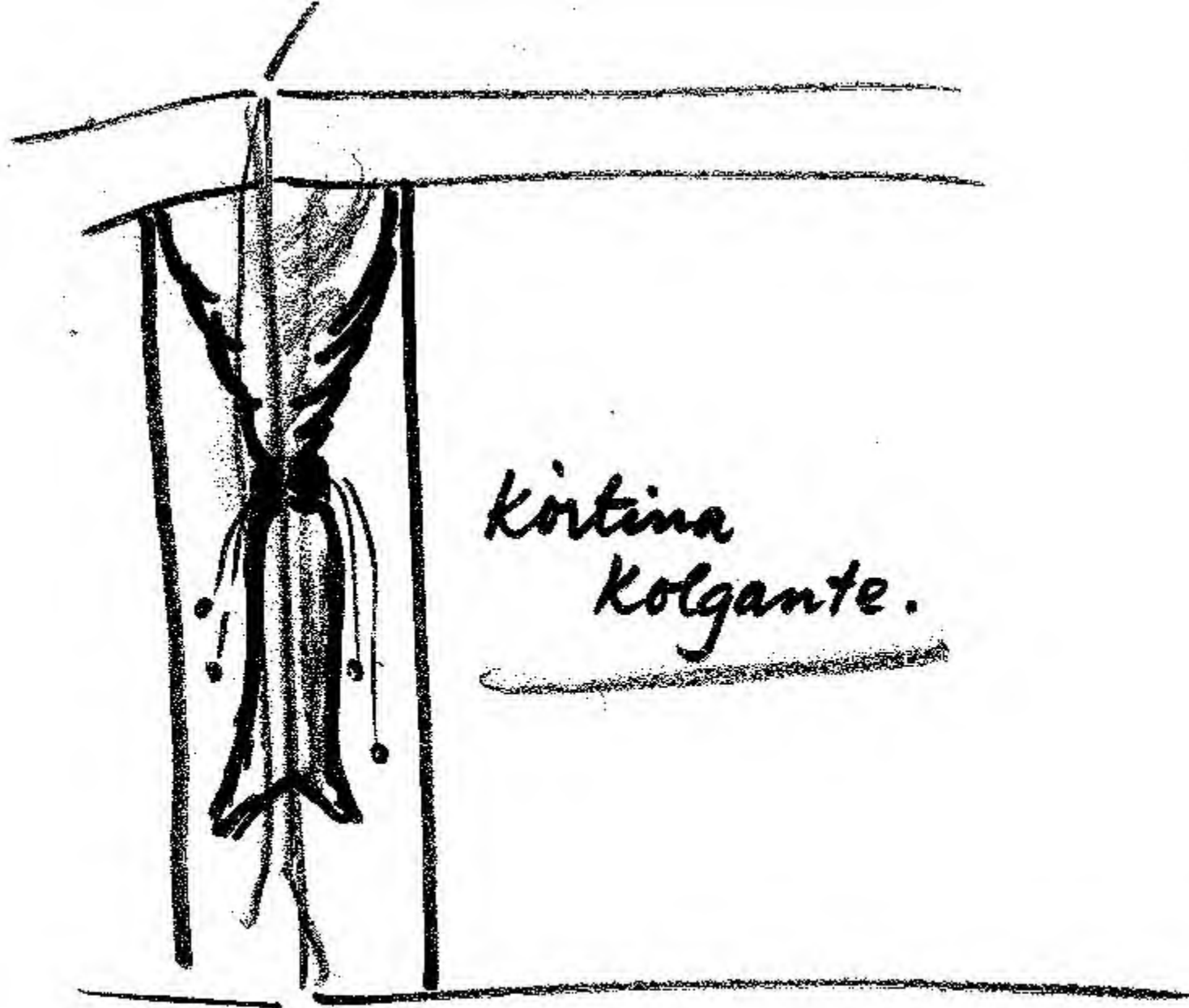
Hand-drawn diagram of a rectangular structure with a wavy top, internal zigzag and oval patterns, and arrows indicating directions.







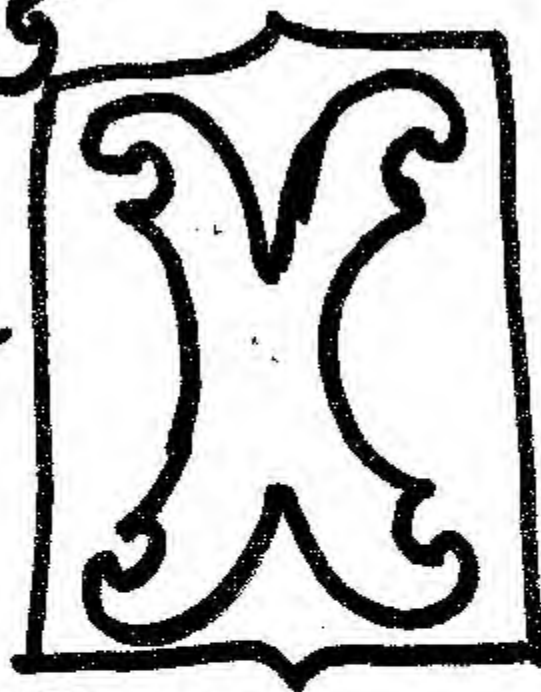


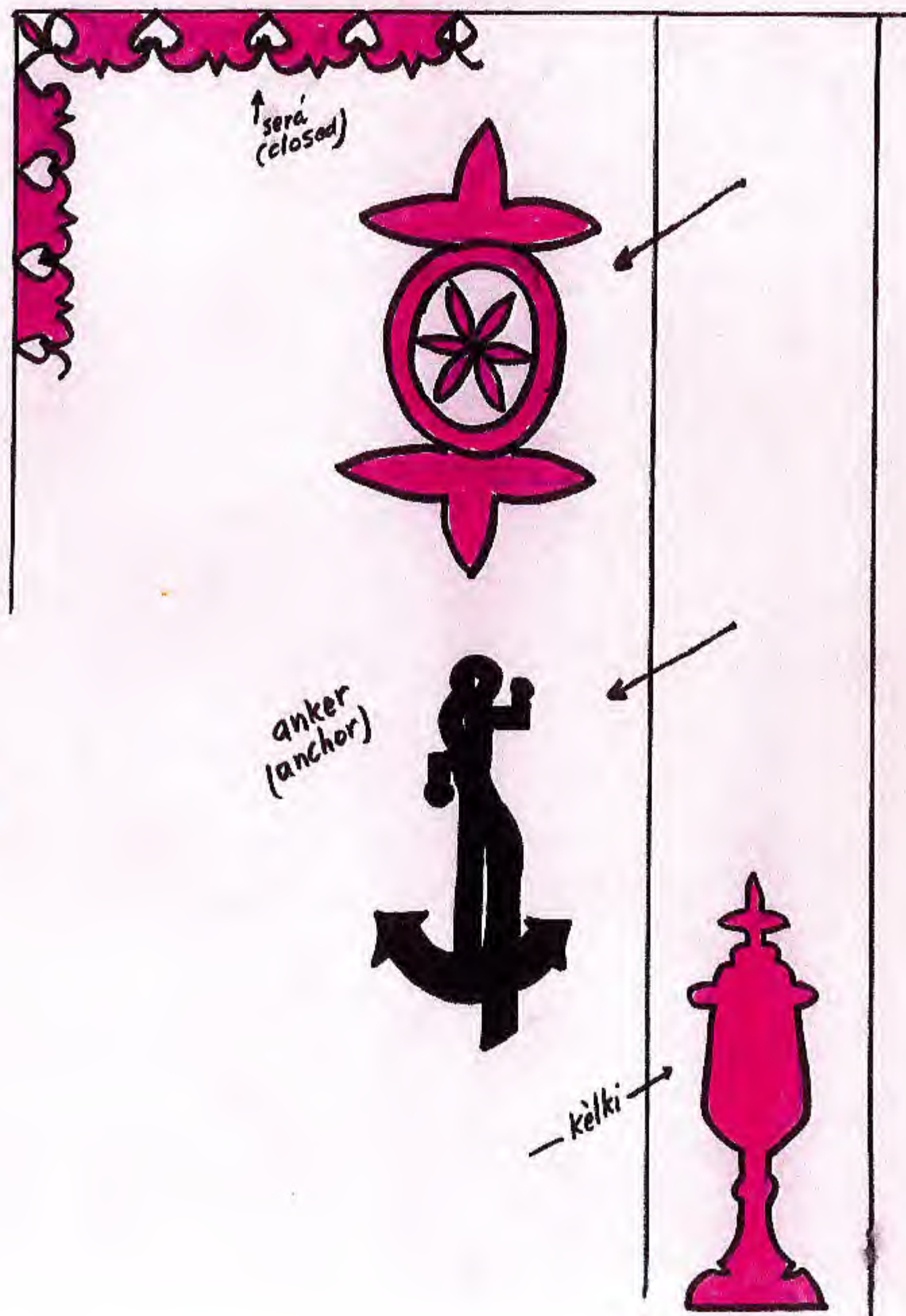


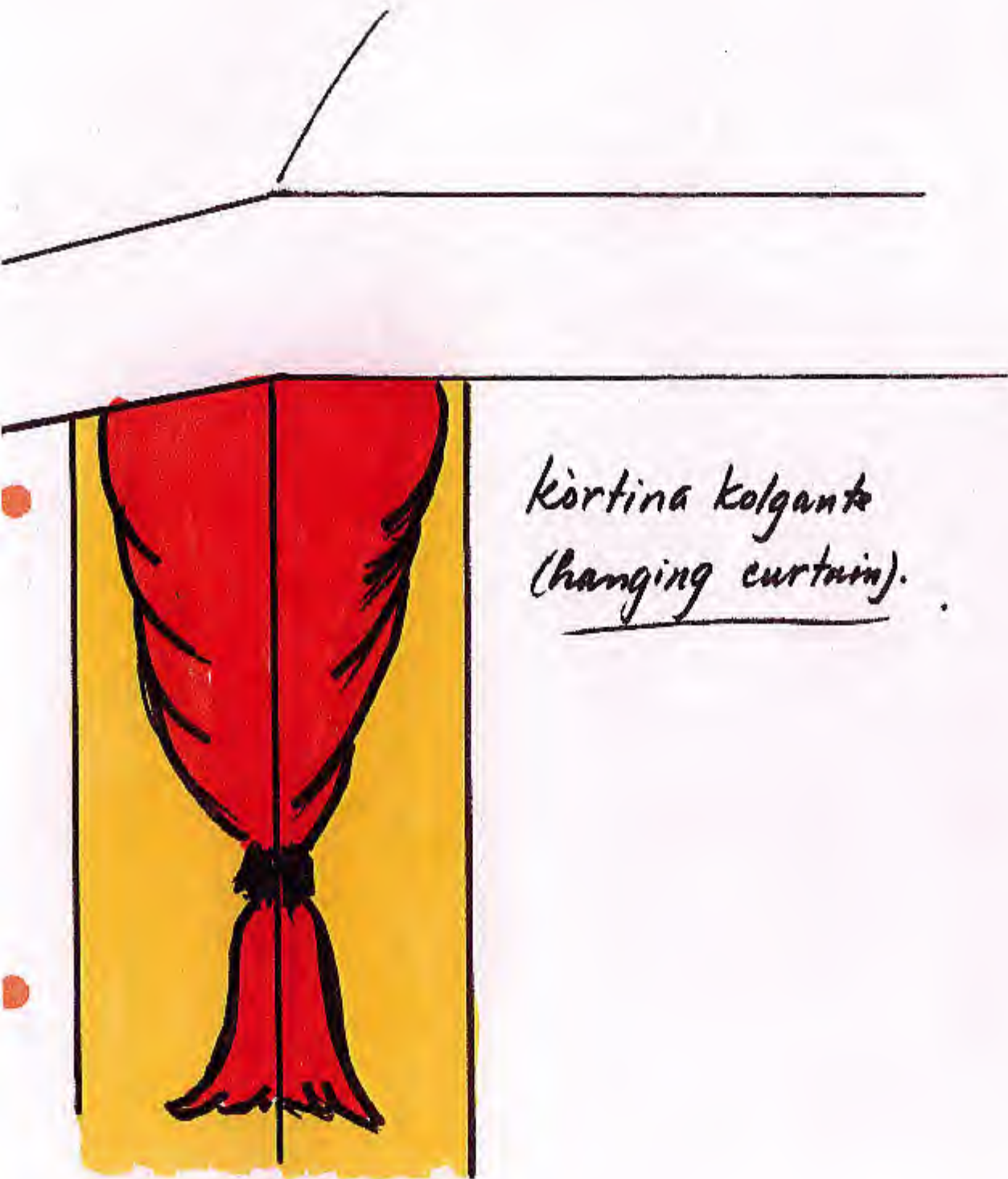


imitashon

poni kas
verk riba
munaya





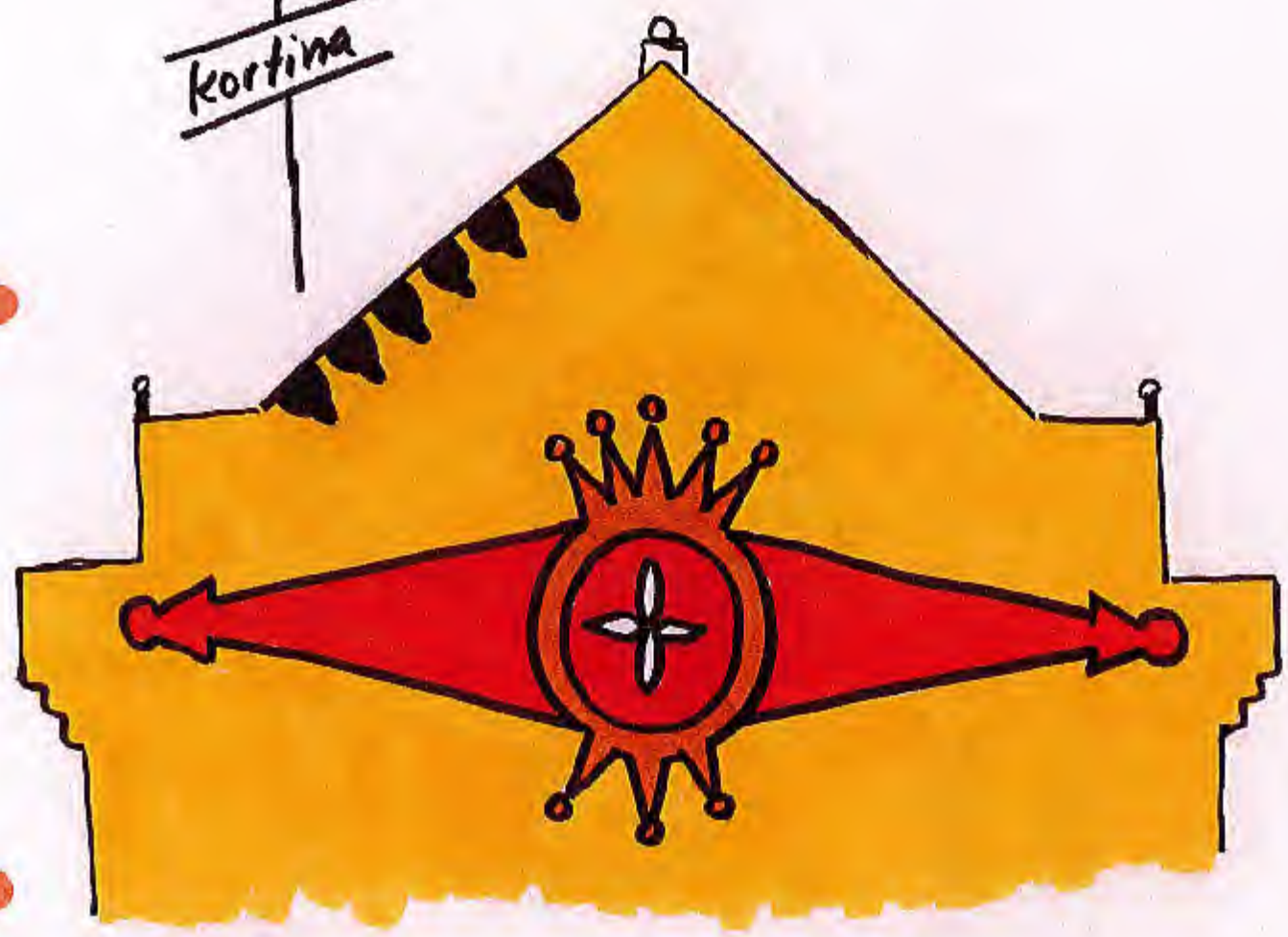


Körtina kolgante
(changing curtain).

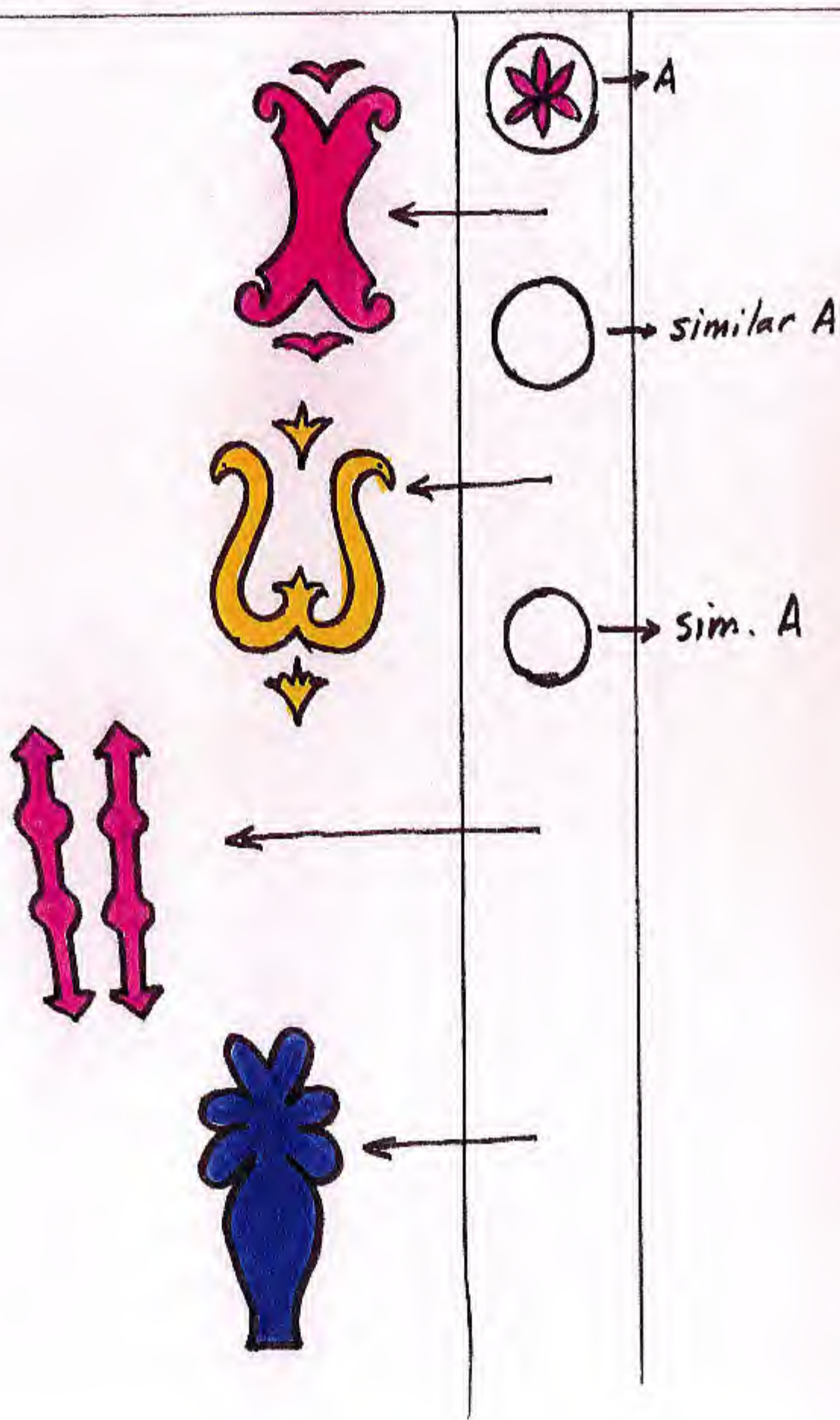
front.



kortina



NO TIN KORTINA

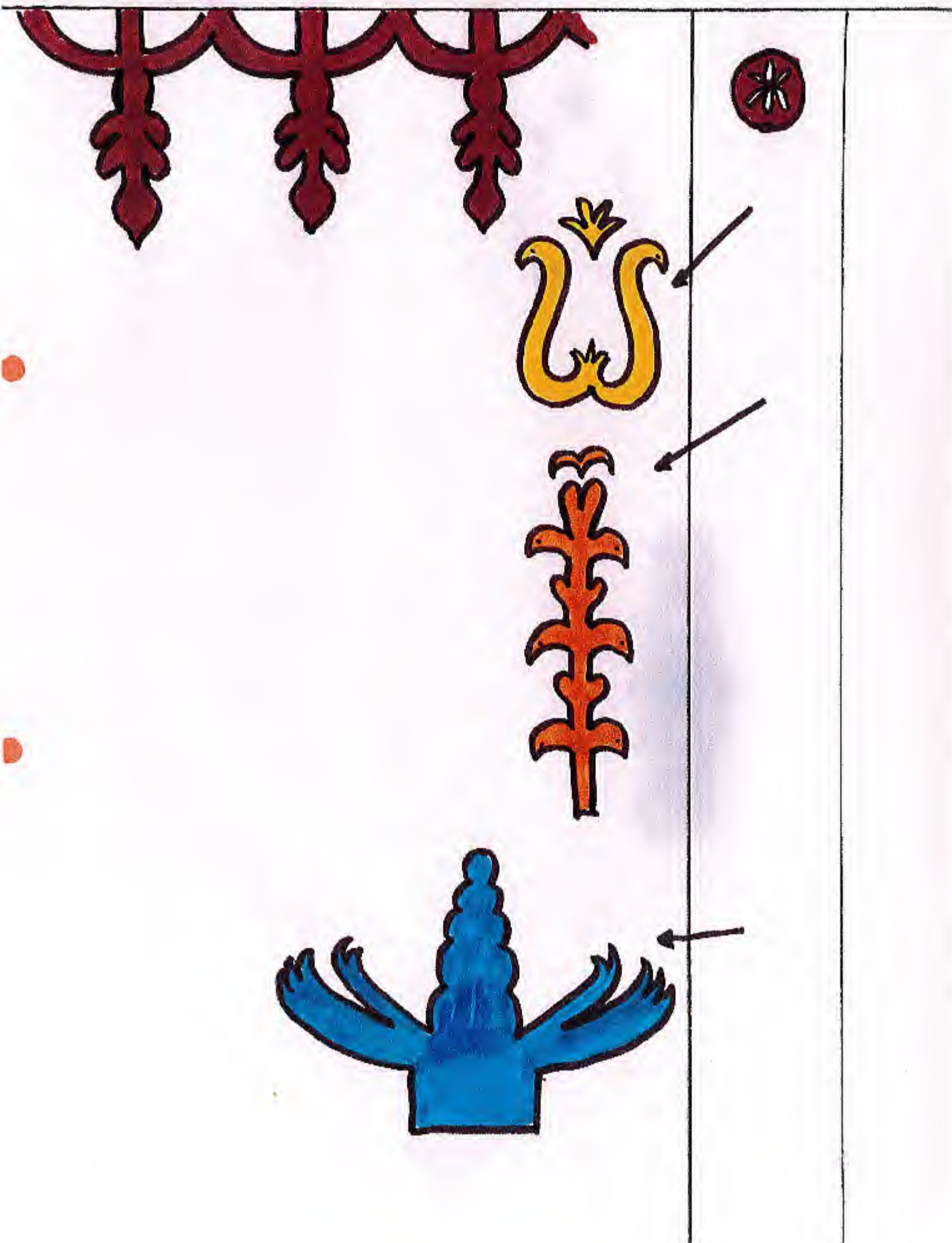




pato
(duck)



Mac. 82.



Cashero 3.

no tin kòrtina.

Elornan
trahá na aña
1943.

tin tambe un
bopchi :



strea di 8
punta
(star with 8
corners).



A



similar
A.



similar
A.



Sab. Basora 12.

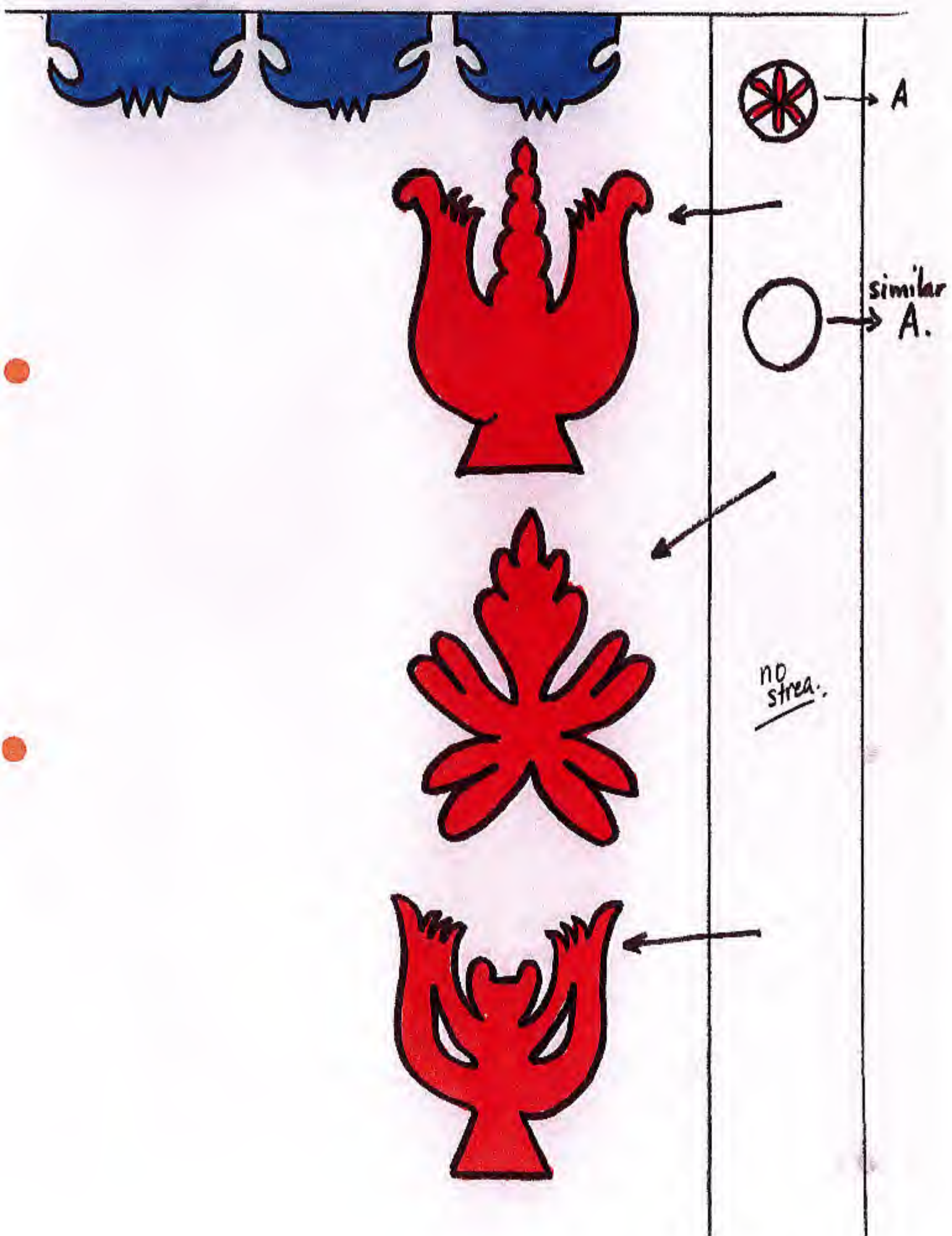


A



similar
A.







↑
habrí
(open)



strea ku
4 parha
(star with
4 birds)





→ A



→ similar
A.

sin
kuadro.



Piedra Plat 50.



strea di
8 punta





distansia



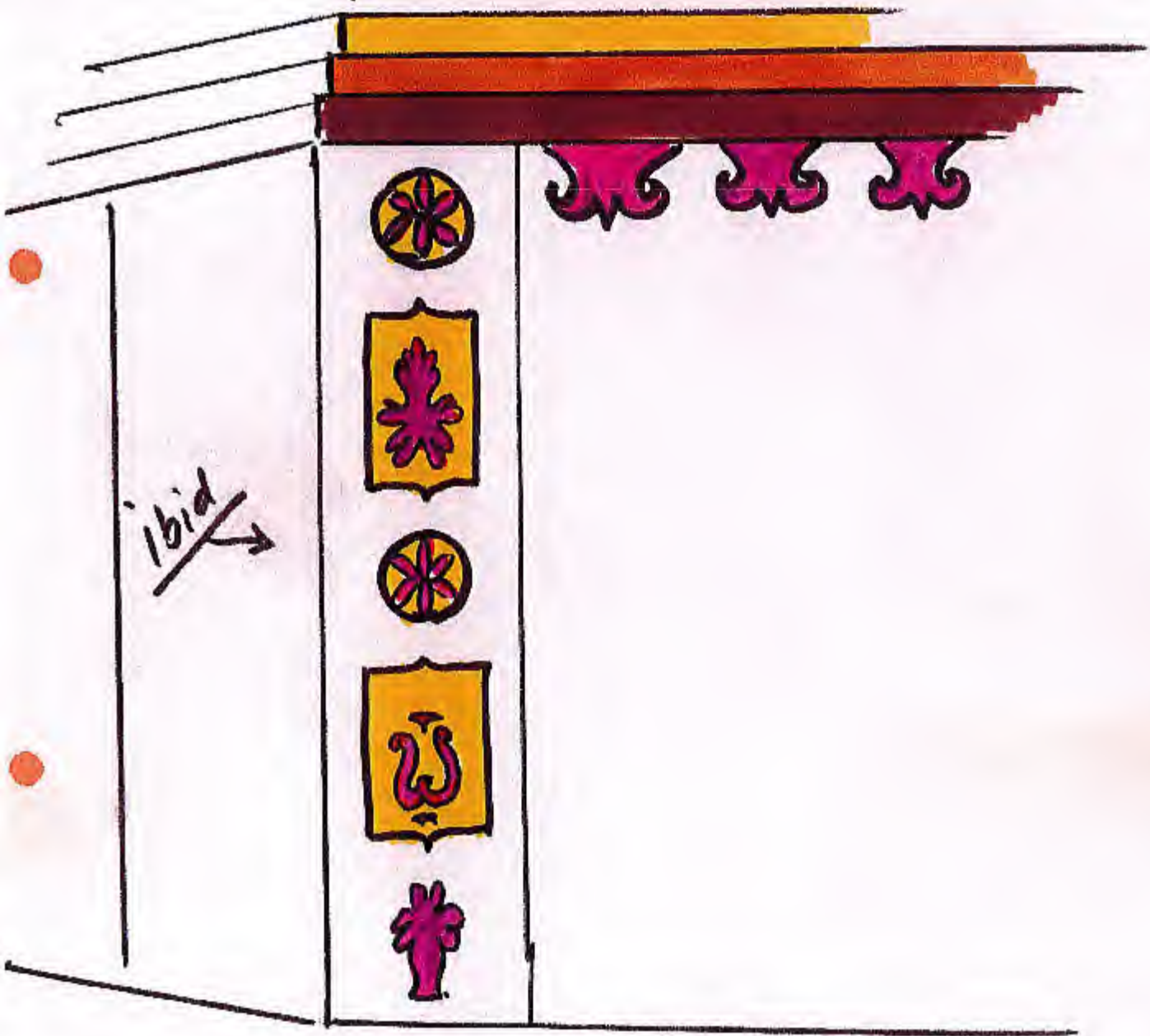
imitashon pinta'



ku ferf riba muraja.



tres repi
bai hallo.

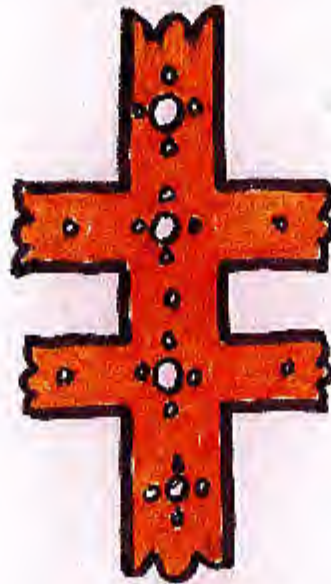


front.





un sorto
di "sleiru"

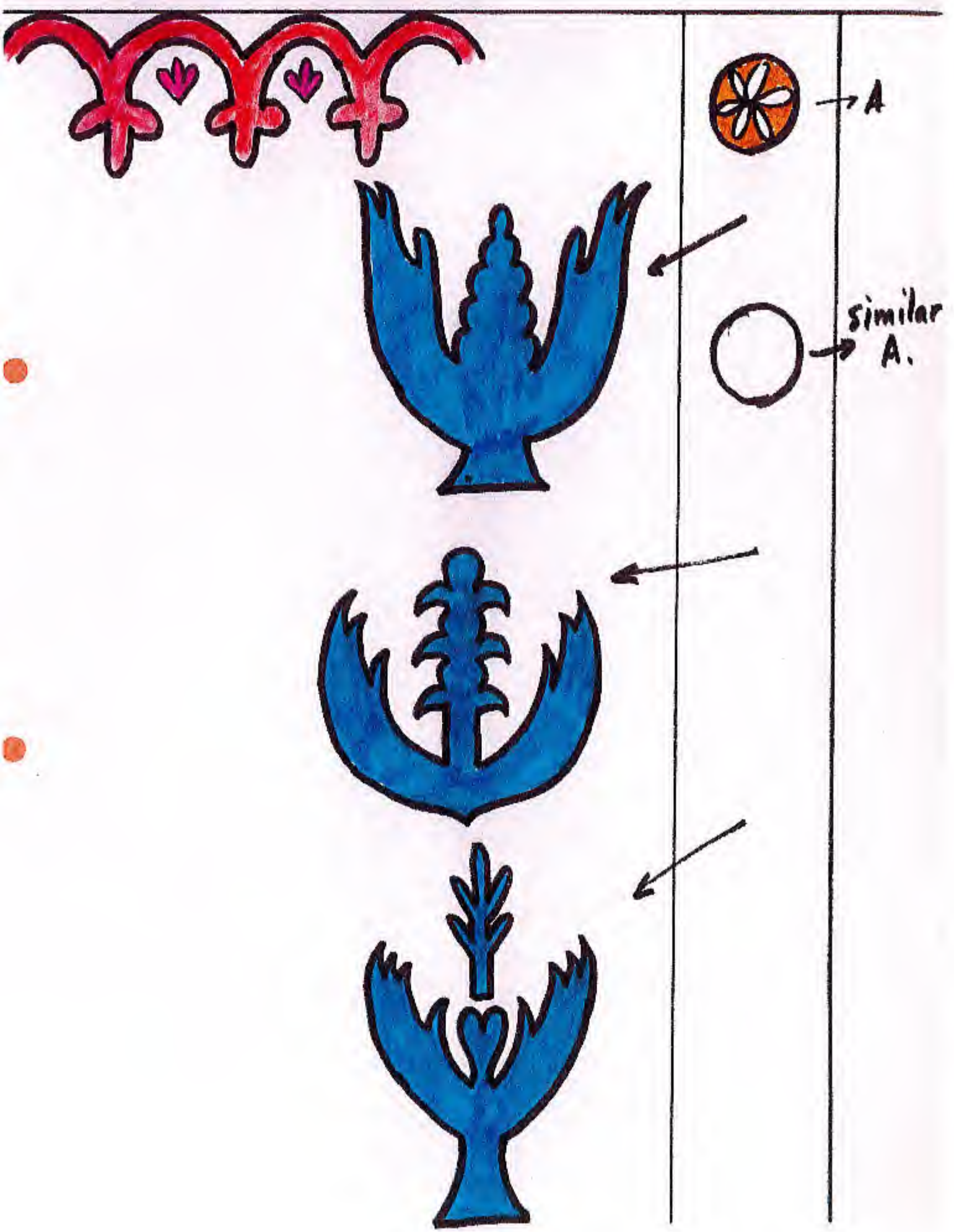


körtina ↘

ibid ↙

front!





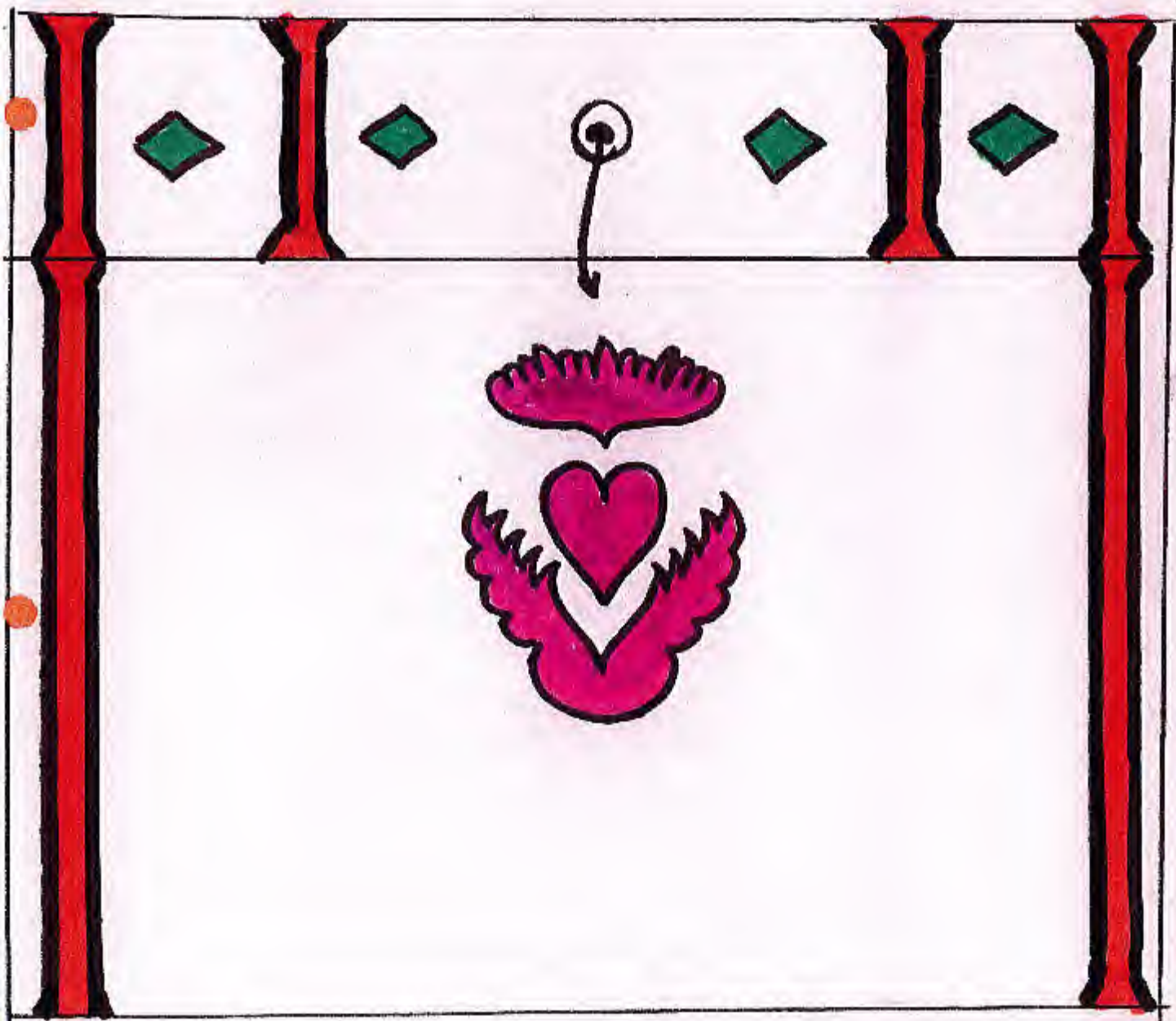
Sta Cruz 170
Sta Cruz 180.



Sta Cruz 180 : kirtina so!

Sta Cruz 170 : kirtina +
1 diseño :





front.

Sta Cruz 68
Sta Cruz 70

obra di
J. Christiaans →

in figure
(one design).
kanika
ku 2 parha
riba dje



→ A.



→ similar
A.



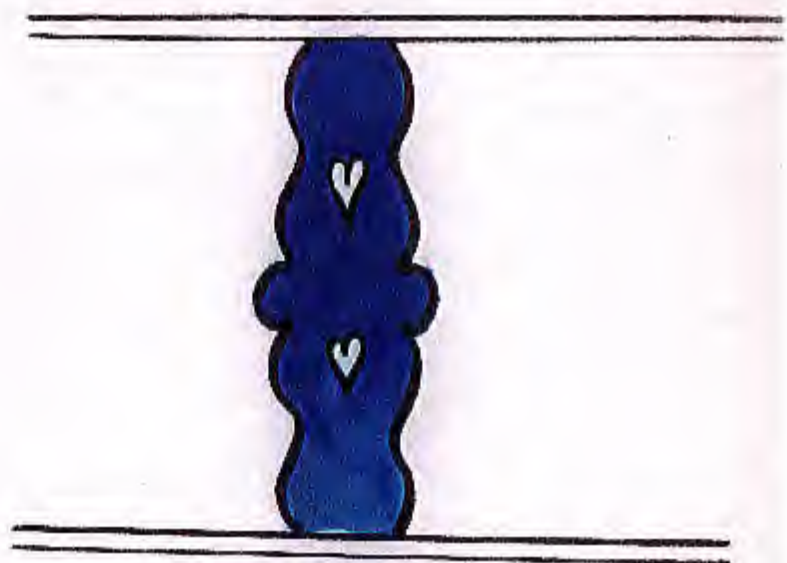
→ similar
A.

Cashero 14.

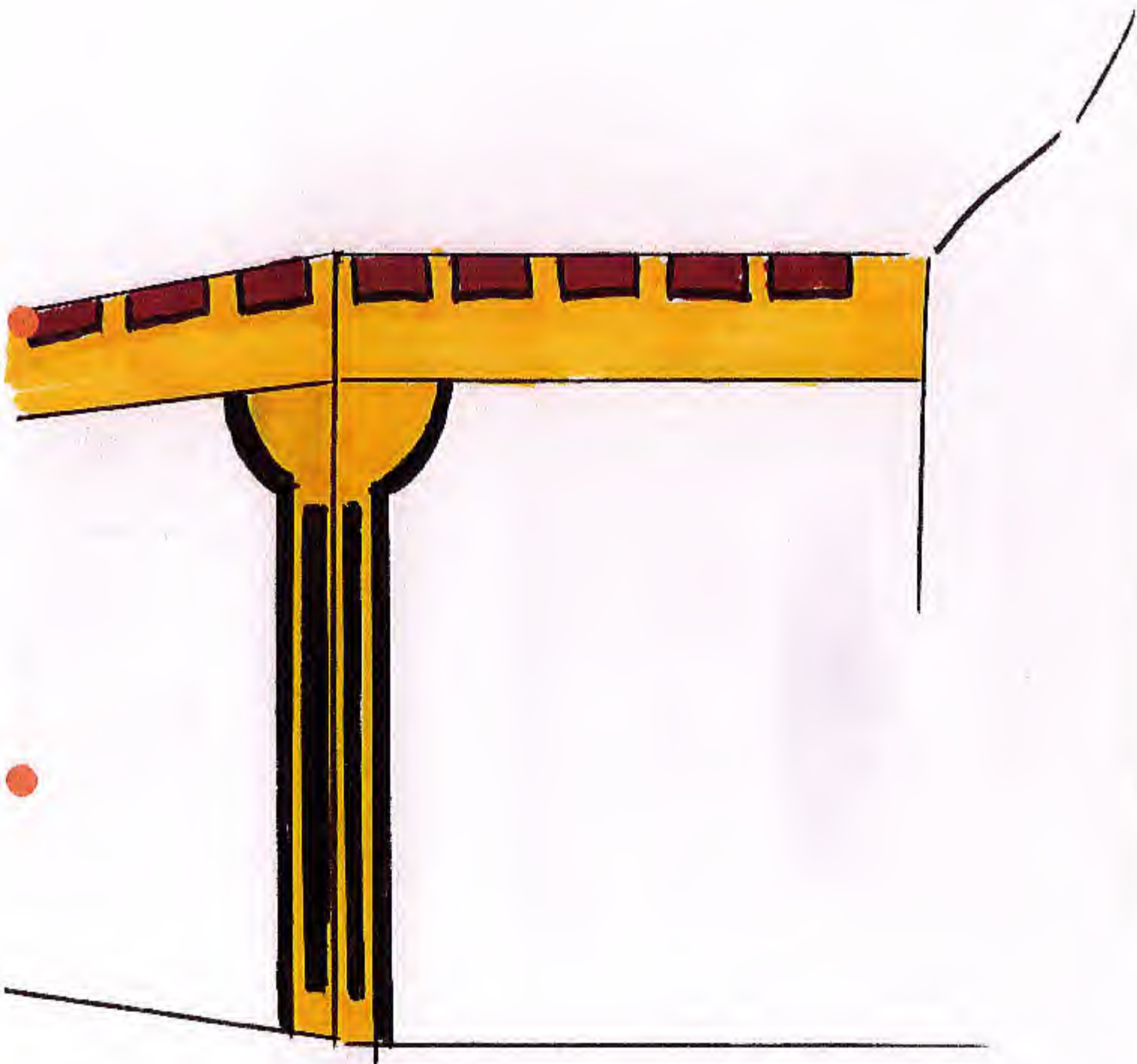
Agripino Maduro
+ Sra.



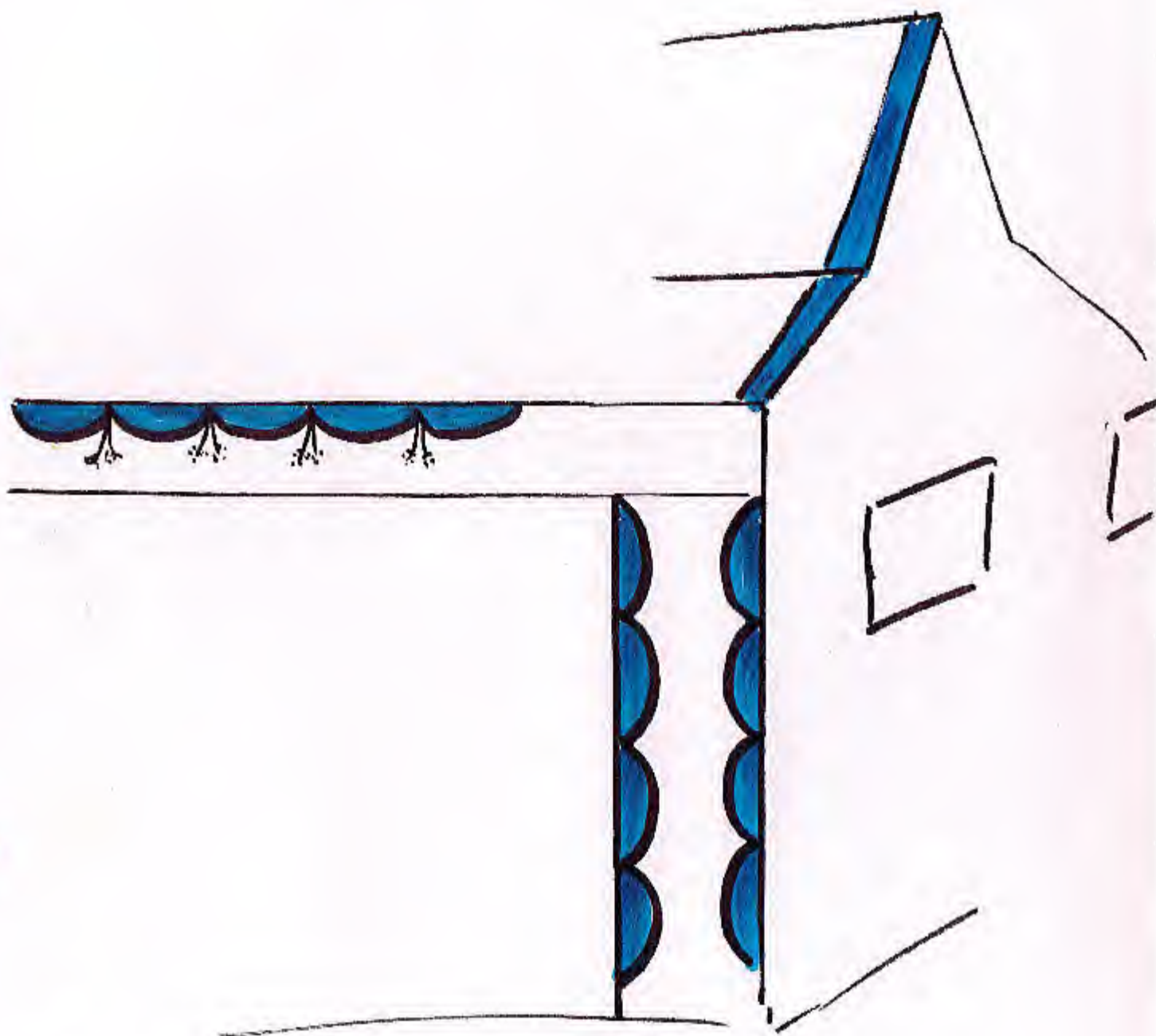
obra propio
ti Sr. + Sra
Maduro.
Sra. ta diseñá'!



dekorashon pa
veranda (porch)



front.



front



↑
obel kortina.

no tin
ronchi
(no circle)



sin
kuadro
(no frame)



Mac. 89.

no tin kòrtina.

flornan ta na banda
di e kas, no na front.



in figura
one design.



Siribana 20

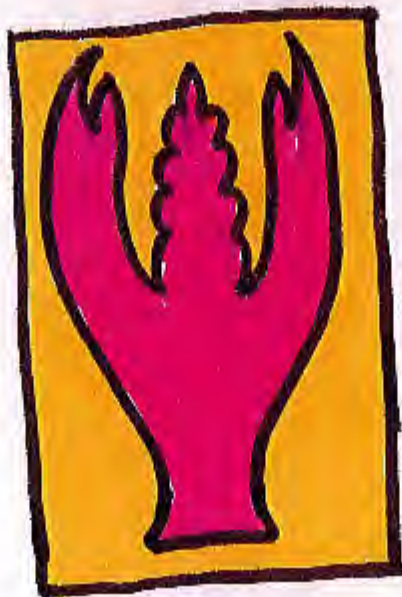




bouquet.



(kandelario).
chandelier



→ A



→ similar
A.

Sta. Cruz 236
stul, ku diseño!



Körson,
sofa' ku diseño!





strea
(star).



→ A

kouchi di
parha
(cage for
birds)



similar
→ A

par di
parha ku
flor riba Kabes
(pair of
birds with
flowers on
heads)



similar
→ A.

6 parha riba
un mata
(6 birds
on a
tree)



Sab. Basora 20-B
R. Bosal 50.



kamika
(kind of pot).
jug with
double handles



→ A.



→ similar
A.



→ similar
A.

Sekat di 4
brasa
(4 armed
octopus).



Flowers in
a vase.





